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VOLUME LAW NUMBER 19503

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1997 • ADAR I 2, 5757 • 2 SHAWAL 1417

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Thousands attend the funeral in the Beduin village of Zarzir of St.-Sgt. Maj. Hassin Rahal, 34, and Sgt. Kamel Rahal, 27, two cousins among the 73 soldiers and airmen who died in last Tuesday's helicopter disaster. The last 13 victims were laid to rest on Friday. (Reuters)

## 23 Palestinian women prisoners to be released this week

PM, Hanegbi request pardon for Jewish murderers of Arabs

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to officially inform Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat tonight of his decision, announced at Friday's cabinet meeting, to release all 23 women Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

In an apparent effort at some sort of linkage, Netanyahu spokesman Shai Bazak said last night the premier and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi have already asked President Ezer Weizman to "consider commuting the sentences of Jewish prisoners" convicted of killing Arabs after each prisoner exhausts the appeal process. "The president told the prime minister that he would consider commuting sentences," Bazak said.

No names have been discussed, according to Bazak, but among those serving such sentences are Ami Popper and Yoram Skolnik. Popper is serving consecutive life sentences for murdering seven Palestinian workers in Rishon LeZion in 1990. Skolnik is serving a life sentence for murdering a captured Palestinian terrorist in March 1993. Legal commentator Moshe Hanegbi has termed the release of such killers as "undermining the rule of law."

The release of the women, timed to coincide with Id al-Fitr, the holiday concluding the

Moslem holy month of Ramadan, is mandated as part of the 1995 Oslo 2 agreement and reaffirmed by the recent Hebron pullback deal.

Officials say two of the women are convicted murderers, while three were convicted of being accomplices to murders committed during the intifada. Israel has long offered to release the other 18, but these women have refused to leave prison in solidarity with the five.

Arafat has already welcomed the move, as reportedly did Jordan's King Hussein. When asked by reporters yesterday about whether he seeks the release of jailed Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Arafat termed it a top priority.

At Friday's cabinet meeting, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon voiced opposition to the release, charging the PA does not deserve the gesture since it has not extradited any prisoners to Israel.

He also called on Netanyahu to permit construction of the controversial Har Homa neighborhood in southeastern Jerusalem. Palestinians have threatened that if the project is approved, they will bring the issue to the UN Security Council.

Meanwhile, Palestinians, Egyptians, and US officials have privately complained that Israel has delayed establishing negotiating teams for further talks with the Palestinians. However, officials in the Prime Minister's Office, say an

announcement could come as soon as today in this regard.

These officials say the IDF will lead negotiations dealing with security procedures surrounding the construction of both a Gaza airport and seaport, as well as negotiate terms for safe passage for Palestinians between Gaza and the West Bank. All three are mandated to the recent Hebron deal.

The Finance Ministry will head talks regarding the amount of tax money that is to be remitted to the PA. The Ministry of Industry and Trade will head talks on the construction of an industrial park at Gaza's Karni crossing.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office say that part of the delay is due to the fact that top negotiator Yitzhak Molcho, who had worked very intently on the Hebron accord for months, has been abroad.

The women-prisoner release will mark the second time, including the Hebron redeployment, that the Netanyahu government has implemented an agreement the Labor government failed to carry out within the time frame it specified. The release has been Arafat's top demand since the Oslo 2 agreement of September 28, 1995 promised to release all women prisoners immediately.

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## MKs discuss Lebanon pullout

Eitan, Ezra, Beilin, Harel, Cohen meet with former security officials

DAVID RUDGE, SARAH HONIG and agencies

Likud faction leader Michael Eitan last night met with a group of coalition and opposition MKs to discuss a plan for a unilateral

withdrawal from south Lebanon. The MKs, who met at the Kochav Yair home of Likud MK Gideon Ezra, included Labor's Yossi Beilin, Third Way MK Yehuda Harel, and Yitzhak Cohen of Shas. Former senior members of the security establishment - including ex-General Security Service head Ya'acov Perry, ex-GSS deputy head Yossi Ginosar, former coordinator of the territories and Lebanon liaison unit commander Danny Rothschild - participated in the meeting. Yisrael Harel, one of the leaders of the Council for Judea, Samaria, and Gaza also attended.

Ezra would not say what conclusion the four reached last night or whether they were even all in agreement, but said they plan to take up the matter with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday rejected such a move, saying it would bring Hizbullah terrorists

closer to Israel's northern frontier. He said Israel must stabilize its northern border before leaving the security zone.

"This border was at first grabbed by Palestinian terrorists and now it has been seized by Hizbullah ter-

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Inquiry calls for public's help, Page 2

IDF on full alert in security zone, Page 2

## Barak: I proposed deal to leave Lebanon when FM

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Labor MK Ehud Barak personally passed a message to Lebanese Foreign Minister Farez Bouez while serving as foreign minister last year, offering to leave southern Lebanon if Hizbullah was quiet for three months, Barak disclosed yesterday.

While Lebanon is known to favor an Israeli exit, "they never responded," Barak said.

The former chief of staff said a three-month period of quiet would be followed up by a period of intensive negotiations lasting no longer than 90 days, which would be concluded by Israel leaving the country.

Barak, who spoke on Channel 1, said the offer was passed by way of a third party "from the area who is not an Arab."

Sources say the person in question was Cypriot Foreign Minister Aleco Michaelidis, who visited here last March.

Michaelidis was known to be in close contact with both Barak and Bouez. Barak said he expected the message would be passed by way of Syria.

Interestingly, the offer appears to have been made after the Peres government lost hope of reaching a peace deal with Syria before Knesset elections.

For the last few years, Labor viewed a pullback from southern Lebanon as only occurring on the heels of a Golan pullback.

## Government declares Bezek services 'vital,' limiting private ownership

By JUDY SEGEL

The government on Friday approved an order proposed by Communications Minister Limor Livnat declaring Bezek's basic telecommunications services "vital" and thus barring any foreign or local entity from controlling more than 25 percent of the company.

Livnat told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that when taking office, she had been presented with an order that would discriminate between foreign and local interests, limiting the former to a maximum of 10% of Bezek and the latter to 25%.

Under the new regulations - passed unanimously by the cabinet after consultations with the premier and defense, finance and justice

ministers - anyone who wanted more than a 5% interest in Bezek would have to obtain permission from the communications minister. Permission would have to be granted at each increment for those seeking a 7%, 11%, 14%, 21% and finally a 25% share. In addition, Israeli interests would not have a higher limit than foreigners.

Britain's Cable & Wireless company currently owns 10% of Bezek (by buying up shares without consulting the government), and it wants more - at least 20%, Livnat suggested.

The new order was vital to "protect Israel's security interests," she said. While Hungary and a few other countries have laws allowing their national telecommunications companies to be controlled by outsiders, most do not, Livnat said,

pointing out that the US and England have very strict limits on investments by foreigners.

Before deciding on her position, Livnat invited Bezek and C&W officials for hearings, and changed her decision somewhat as a result. After the government decision on Friday, she called C&W president Richard Brown. He called it a "slap in the face" but said his company would study the decision and continue negotiating with the ministry over other solutions to their equity plans.

Livnat said C&W was entitled to take the case to the High Court of Justice, "but I don't think it has a chance of winning." Local interests wanting shares in Bezek did not pressure her, she said, and the new order was "not meant to put a brake specifically on C&W."

## Rehovot scientists discover gene which could help fight AIDS

By JUDY SEGEL

A gene that plays a vital role in the process of infection, the activation of the immune system and - perhaps - in the maturation of the HIV virus that causes AIDS has been discovered and cloned by Weizmann Institute researchers.

Their findings, which many other groups of scientists abroad have been trying to achieve, appears in today's issue of the prestigious British journal *Nature*.

Prof. David Wallach of the membrane research and biophysics department discovered the gene, called NIK, with help from doctoral students Nikolai Malinin, Mark Boldin and Andrei Kovalenko.

NIK helps remove a molecular

"brake" that keeps the immune response in check.

Its discovery, said the Rehovot scientists, could lead to the development of drugs to regulate the immune system in a variety of diseases.

Drugs that enhance NIK's effects could be designed to boost immunity in immune-deficiency diseases, while drugs that block its effects might be developed to inhibit unwanted immune responses in autoimmune diseases, such as juvenile-onset diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis or multiple sclerosis.

"NIK activation is a crucial, first step in triggering the immune response," said Wallach. "Our findings hold potential for the design of future drugs to block or enhance the effects of NIK, although we still need to clarify the exact reactions that this molecule sets off."

It has been known for about 20 years that a protein called NF-kB belongs to a class of proteins, known as transcription

factors, which "switch on" certain genes. NF-kB is a major molecule involved in the immune response, switching on several genes involved in immune and inflammatory responses to disease and infection.

While it is always present in all cells, its effects in healthy ones are usually blocked by an inhibitory protein known as I-kB.

In healthy cells, NF-kB and I-kB are attached to each other, but when infection or disease occurs, a domino effect occurs in which the "brake" is removed and destroyed and the NF-kB is set free.

The Weizmann scientists sought to discover what causes the "brake" to be removed and

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# NEWS

in brief

### Two soldiers killed in head-on collision

A male and a female soldier, both 19, were killed instantly early yesterday morning when their car suddenly swerved into the path of an oncoming truck on the Yad Mordechai-Sderot highway.

Police are investigating the cause. Last night three people were injured, one seriously, when a car and a motorcycle collided on the Trans-Samaria Highway. The injured were taken to the Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva. Six members of one family were injured, two seriously, while crossing the street in Bnei Brak last night. They were crossing behind a bus, and were struck by a rental car whose driver did not see them.

A 60-old woman died yesterday from injuries suffered when she was struck and killed by a car while crossing the Gega Highway yesterday. *Itim*

### Youth arrested in rape of Ramle girl

Police on Thursday arrested a 13-year-old Ramle youth suspected of raping a seven-year-old girl there last Monday. The youth, who denies any connection to the case, was remanded Friday by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court for five days.

Police acted on a tip Thursday night from a person who claimed to have seen someone who fit the description of the suspect. Police said they were surprised to find that the youth, who is so young, did fit the description provided by the girl and her brother. *Itim*

### Palestinian student dies of wounds

A Palestinian university student has died of wounds he sustained during gun battles between Palestinian Police and IDF soldiers in September, hospital officials said Friday.

Ramallah Hospital officials said Yasser Hamshari, 21, a second year student at Bir Zeit University's commerce department, died there Thursday night.

His death raised to 61 the number of Palestinians killed in the confrontations that erupted after Israel opened an exit to the Western Wall Tunnel. Palestinians killed 15 Israelis in the clashes. *Resner*

# Inquiry calls for public's help

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The commission of inquiry on the helicopter collision, which is expected to hand its interim report to the government this week, has taken the unusual step of calling on the public to offer any information it may have concerning the crash.

The inquiry has heard reports from Air Force helicopter experts as well as testimony

from flight technicians and residents of the North. But no one is reported to have witnessed the collision, thus leaving it up to the commission to try and piece together what happened. They will examine the radio communication tapes and have sent the wreckage to laboratories for inspection.

What is clear is that the collision was caused when the second helicopter rammed the first. One avenue being examined is

whether the pilots may have been temporarily blinded when switching on night vision. Anyone who has relevant information is asked to contact the commission at 03-697-7447, or fax 03-697-7053.

The fact that the commission has asked for anyone who feels they may have information vital to the investigation to speak up is unusual. It was apparently done not just because there were no survivors, but also to

head off future criticism that the commission may have ignored crucial information. Channel 1 reported last night that someone apparently heard that the pilots were complaining of a communication malfunction. The report said such a malfunction would not likely have any bearing on the crash, but it is an example of the kind of information, however unsubstantiated, the commission wants to include in its investigation.



President Ezer Weizman, who has vowed to visit the families of all 73 helicopter disaster victims, speaks on Friday with the father of Lt. Kobi Ben-Shem, 20, of Ramat Hasharon. Weizman said he prefers to visit every family individually, rather than attend only some of the funerals, and that he draws great strength from the victims' families. "Whoever believes there is a lack of motivation among the country's youth to volunteer for combat units, should see these families," he told reporters after several visits in the center of the country. Today Weizman is to go to Misgav Am, Bar'am, Dishon, Safed, Beit Jann, Mitzpeh Netofa, Tiberias, Degania, Ashdot Ya'acov-Ihud, Beit Yosef, and Moledet. (Photo: Batsheva Tsor; Photo Dana Serman/Israel Sun)

## Thousands visit She'ar Yashuv

By DAVID RUDGE and agencies

Thousands of people flocked to Moshav She'ar Yashuv yesterday, some bringing flowers, some to light candles, and others just to look at the scene of the helicopter disaster that shook the nation.

The road leading to the small community that in recent years has been trying to promote tourism to the site was blocked with vehicles in both directions.

Residents had to close the entrance to the moshav because of the flood of cars, and police were called to the scene and the main road leading from Kiryat Shmona to the Banyas and Mt. Hermon, in order to direct and try to control the flow of traffic.

"Virtually everybody en route to the Hermon ski site is coming, as well as others who just wanted to come to the scene," a policeman on traffic duty told reporters.

For many of the visitors it was a pilgrimage, almost a duty out of respect to the memory of the 73 soldiers and airmen killed in the disaster. The wreckage has been cleared from the site and the remains of the guest houses that were struck by one of the helicopters have been knocked down and the ground levelled.

All that is left at the scene after the salvage and rescue operations is the scoured brown earth, some of the red tape used to seal off the area and many candles and flowers.

Meanwhile, King Hussein of Jordan radioed a message of sympathy yesterday for the death of the 73 soldiers and airmen as he flew over Israel on his way to London, Israel Radio and Army Radio reported. The king, who often pilots his own plane, spoke to the control tower at Ben-Gurion Airport and expressed condolences over the tragedy.

## Cabinet puts off setting health tax exemptions

Acting on a request by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Elyahu Yisraeli, the cabinet on Friday declined to determine a list of localities that will be exempt from paying pupils' health fees. The matter was referred to the Interministerial Economics Committee. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## PM to demand PA stay out of Jerusalem hospitals

By JUDY SIEGEL

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is today expected to demand that Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat halt the PA's efforts to "take over" Arab hospitals in Jerusalem. The demand was initiated by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who last week convened directors of the five hospitals to discuss the problem.

Matza told the premier about the case of a four-year-old Bethlehem boy who suffered severe burns when a friend poured paint thinner on sticks and lit them. Burnt over much of his body, he was rushed to Bethlehem Hospital and then to eastern Jerusalem's Makassed Hospital, which does not have a sophisticated burns unit.

Even though Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem does have an outstanding burns unit, Makassed - whose director

has been sent on leave and replace by a PA representative - refused the transfer.

Instead, the hospital would agree only to move the boy to a medical center in Jordan, a trip which a Hadassah doctor warned could cause his death.

The PA is "conducting a war at the expense of patients often in critical condition," Matza charged. "Is there no limit to its cynicism?"

The health minister demanded that the PA "stop interfering" in the functioning of the capital's Arab hospitals, especially Makassed.

"There is nothing to prevent the Bethlehem boy from being sent immediately to Hadassah in an attempt to save his life."

The principle of mutual observance of agreements is being openly violated by the Palestinians, Matza charged, "and this must be prevented clearly and immediately."

## IDF troops in Lebanon on full alert

By DAVID RUDGE

IDF troops serving in the security zone and along the northern border remained on full alert over the weekend and carried out their duties as normal, despite the trauma of the helicopter disaster in which 73 of their comrades were killed. Troop rotation convoys once again plied the roads leading into and out of the zone to replace soldiers manning fortified hilltop positions in the region.

The soldiers who were killed in the apparent collision between the two CH-53 transport helicopters over Moshav She'ar Yashuv on Tuesday night had themselves been on route to the Beaufort Castle and other positions in the region.

Hizbullah activists, however, who maintained that the disaster was a "godly punishment," continued to claim that the soldiers had

intended to carry out a special mission inside Lebanon.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said in a Lebanese newspaper article yesterday that the troops aboard the helicopters had intended to carry out a commando-style kidnap mission and he was probably the intended victim.

The helicopter transports, which had been designed to bypass the threat posed by Hizbullah roadside bomb and Sagger anti-tank missile attacks and ambushes, were stopped following the disaster. Instead, soldiers entered the zone in the past few days, as in the past, in escorted convoys.

The region itself has been relatively quiet since heavy fighting erupted in south Lebanon last Tuesday and ceased that afternoon - a few hours before the helicopter disaster. Hizbullah announced at the time that its gunmen had attacked over

20 IDF and South Lebanese Army positions with long-range mortar and anti-tank missile fire to mark "Jerusalem Day" at the end of the month-long Ramadan fast.

Despite the relative quiet since then, Hizbullah is still expected to escalate its activities in the coming days because of other memorial dates which also fall this month. The most notable is February 16, which marks the killing five years ago of then Hizbullah secretary-general Sheikh Abbas Musawi and members of his family in an attack by IAF helicopter gunships.

Musawi had been returning from a memorial service in Jibsheet village in south Lebanon for Sheikh Rajeb Harb, founder of Hizbullah's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, who was himself killed in 1984. The need for continued vigilance on the part of IDF and SLA troops

was underlined on Friday with the discovery of five roadside bombs in Beit Leif village in the western sector of the security zone.

The string of deadly devices were discovered by SLA troops on operational duties in the region and were later safely destroyed by SLA sappers.

A statement issued by the IDF spokesman said the bombs had been planted by Hizbullah activists and were discovered by the SLA troops alongside a main road in the village, near the wall of a house.

The statement said that Israel had lodged a protest with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee over the incident.

The committee is expected to meet later in the week following the conclusion of the Id al-Fitr feast marking the end of Ramadan.

## Moves afoot to revive moribund multilateral peace talks

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON - The multilateral peace talks, once considered a major aspect of Israeli-Arab conciliation but recently all but invisible, will show new signs of life beginning next month.

The working group on the environment is to meet in early March in Valencia, Spain. The multilateral steering committee, which last met two years ago, will gather in Moscow later in the month, an Israeli official said here Friday.

While the working group on refugees has continued to meet - including a session in Rome just two weeks ago - those on economic development, water and

arms control have been on a more than year-long hiatus.

In the aftermath of last month's Hebron agreement, "there's an organized effort to move the multilateral talks forward," the official said.

The push comes amid American efforts to seize upon the agreement to prod Arab countries to make good on their pledges to continue normalization with Israel in accordance with progress towards peace.

"There's a sympathetic picture. What we found is the American conception that normalization is a part-and-parcel component of the peace process," the Israeli official said.

"It wouldn't surprise me if, with the renewal of the talks and contacts, we see a phenomenon of [Arab] states that don't have diplomatic ties with Israel, taking on larger loads in the talks."

Oman, Qatar and Tunisia froze emerging ties with Israel in the months after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's election. Others, such as Saudi Arabia, have had no ties with Israel but participate in various multilateral groups.

The developments came at the conclusion of a two-day visit here by the foreign ministry's deputy director-general, Yoav Biran.

Biran met with US officials and Arab ambassadors to discuss moving the normalization process ahead.

A senior US official said that Washington has "been very active" post-Hebron making the case to various Arab states for renewed progress on regional ties.

"We have been very encouraged by the responses we've received,

by the public and private comments, that there's a recognition of the need to move forward," he said. "There is a general recognition that the time was appropriate for the region to engage to support a

reactivated Israeli-Palestinian track."

The US campaign is being conducted at various levels, but it "primarily involves Secretary [of State Madeleine] Albright," he said.

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# 20 crew feared dead as Cypriot freighter sinks off Norway

Post news agencies

OSLO - A Cyprus-registered freighter sank in heavy seas off the Norwegian coast Saturday, and everyone aboard - 20 crewmen - were missing and feared dead.

"There was a Polish crew of 20 people on board," said Elybjorg Vaage, spokeswoman for the Stavanger rescue service.

"The skipper [of the 22,000-ton *Leros Strength*] called at 7.50 a.m. to say the boat was taking in water from a hole in the bow. While one of us at the rescue center was speaking to him, the line went dead." The helicopter and seven ships were searching for survivors.

"We are not optimistic," said rescue service spokesman Anders Bang-Andersen.

"We were on the spot quickly. The helicopter pilot saw bubbles and diesel oil on the surface. Life vests and two empty lift rafts were floating in the sea. A plate with the ship's name on it was observed, too." He said a rescue service official spoke for three minutes with the captain, whose name was not known.

"The captain was calm," Bang-Andersen said. "But he knew they were in a serious situation and he asked for assistance, asked for help to save the crew and himself."

"He said he had problems navigating because of the hole in the bow. When we asked for a weather report the communication was broken. One theory is that the ship then suddenly sank," Bang-Andersen said.

Ships and a helicopter searching the waters in near-gale conditions spotted air bubbles from the sunken ship, debris, two empty life-rafts, life-vests and the ship's name plate, said Bang-Andersen.

The ship apparently went down quickly in the icy, 258-meter deep waters of the North Sea.

Despite more than eight hours of searching, no trace of survivors was found and rescue efforts were scaled down when darkness fell, said Elybjorg Vaage, also of the rescue center.

One Norwegian coast guard vessel was remaining at the scene through the night.

"We'll still search, but considering that they have been missing since this morning, we're not opti-

mistic," she said.

Hospitals in the region called off an alert when hours passed with no survivors recovered from the water, which was near-freezing at about 2C.

The captain may not have realized how serious the situation was until it was too late, since he made a routine radio call for assistance rather than an emergency "may-day" call, rescuers said.

The *Leros Strength*, a 22,000 ton hulk carrier, was freighting apatite, a crystalline mineral used in the manufacture of fertilizers, from Murmansk Russia, to Poland.

Built in 1976, it was registered on Cyprus but owned by Greek shipping company Leros Management, officials said.

It was the worst ship disaster off Norway for years.

In December 1995, 10 fishermen drowned when the Russian trawler *Novgorodets* sank in a storm off the Arctic province of Troms.

In October 1993, the Norwegian fishing boat *Bordanes* went down off the Arctic port of Hammerfest, killing nine seamen.



An ambulance crew prepares to ferry an elderly woman from the helicopter pad to a hospital in Palmerston North after she was wounded in the mass shooting in Raurimu, New Zealand in which six people were killed and as many as five others were wounded. (Reuters)

# Tranquil New Zealand hamlet rocked by mass murder

By MATTHEW BROCKETT

RAURIMU, New Zealand (Reuters) - A gunman went on a shooting rampage in a rural New Zealand hamlet yesterday, killing six people and seriously wounding up to five others, in the latest in a series of mass murders that have shattered the country's tranquil image.

A 24-year-old man had been charged with one count of murder, police said. They had found the suspect naked and unarmed in a rural area close to the scene of the slayings in this small North Island town of Raurimu near the active volcano Mount Ruapehu.

An eerie silence enveloped the dozen farmhouses that make up Raurimu late yesterday following the murders. There was little police presence and few signs of the early morning carnage.

The gunman, using a 12-gauge shotgun, cut a swathe through Raurimu starting at the Spiral Lodge, used by skiers frequenting Mount Ruapehu's ski slopes during the winter season, and moving to another lodge, leaving bodies scattered over a wide area.

Local residents said two of the victims were the parents of the alleged gunman and some of the others were related to him.

They said he had a history of psychiatric

problems.

Police would not confirm those reports but said earlier that the victims might have been related to the suspect.

The proprietor of a nearby motel, who declined to be named, said some of the suspect's family had been in Raurimu for a reunion.

He understood the gunman had at one stage holed up in a bus shelter from where he fired randomly at oncoming traffic, and that one of the dead was a young woman who was walking along the roadside trying to hitch a ride.

"One guy was going to pick her up, then he saw the guy with the shotgun and kept going," the proprietor said. "He looked back and saw the woman getting shot to pieces." Police did not release the name of the suspect. They had earlier said there could be more victims but later called off the search.

Wanganui Acting District Commander Jeff Holloway said police took the suspect into custody shortly before midday.

The murders were committed around 9.00 a.m. yesterday.

"The victims have not yet been properly identified. We don't know all the names as yet. We believe that a number of them at least are residents and may be related to the suspect," he

told a news conference. The wounded were ferried by helicopters to hospitals in the district.

Yesterday's slaying is the fifth mass slaughter in the 1990s to shock the country and undermine its image as a green and peaceful place.

In 1990, 13 people were killed by a young man in the hamlet of Aramona, near Dunedin on the South Island. The police shot the gunman David Gray dead after a siege.

In May, 1992, 64-year-old farmer Brian Schlaepfer shot or stabbed six members of his family before killing himself with a shotgun at Pukekohe, near the northern city of Auckland.

The following month, an unemployed 25-year-old man stabbed or bludgeoned to death seven relatives including five children in the quiet rural town of Masterton, north of Wellington.

Then in 1994 a family of two parents and three children were shot dead with a rifle. Son David Bain was convicted for the mass murders but protested his innocence contending the father carried out the murders before committing suicide.

The series of massacres have traumatized New Zealand's 3.5 million people who used to take pride in their relatively low rate of violence. Violent crime has been on the increase for a number of years.

# Strong dollar focus of G-7 finance ministers' summit

By COLLEEN BARRY

BERLIN - The world's leading industrial democracies - America's allies and competitors - have gotten what they've been wanting for two years, a strong dollar to more evenly balance global trade.

Now, it's up to each nation to adopt the sound fiscal policies that will drive its own growth and maintain stability, the finance ministers and central bank chiefs of the Group of Seven nations agreed yesterday.

"Currency relationships cannot be set through statements," Germany's Finance Minister Theo Waigel said, summing up a devel-

oping consensus that talk alone won't control the dollar - the world's dominant currency.

The view that Japan, Canada, Germany, Italy, France and Britain are responsible for making their own currencies stronger investment targets was outlined in a joint statement issued after a day-long meeting.

The dollar's rise in the past two years was "just what we wished would happen," Waigel said as he opened the meeting in a converted palace on Berlin's Unter den Linden boulevard.

The meeting ended a few hours later with a joint statement saying: "We reaffirm our views that exchange rates should reflect eco-

nomics fundamentals and that excessive volatility is undesirable." While agreeing that the problem of the undervalued dollar - outlined in an April 1995 G-7 meeting - had been fixed, the monetary officials did set an exact target for the US currency.

"It's not a question of a precise level. The present situation is more or less acceptable," said Hans Tietmeyer, Germany's central bank governor. He said the dollar's rise should be gradually ending, and expected the G-7 statement would give "a signal of stability to the markets." US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin seemed to agree.

# Chirac pays glowing tribute to Harriman

PARIS, (Reuters) - French President Jacques Chirac paid glowing tribute yesterday to the late US ambassador Pamela Harriman at a leave-taking ceremony which drew a discreet veil over Franco-American tensions.

The French head of state, senior US officials including National Security Advisor Samuel Berger, and relatives gathered to recall the glittering past and the four-year Paris tenure of Harriman, who died on Wednesday of a brain hemor-

rhage, aged 76.

Highlighting their common revolutionary legacy, both US Marines and French Republican Guards stood watch in crisp sunshine over Harriman's wooden coffin, draped in the Stars and Stripes and placed on the garden terrace of the embassy residence.

Drawing his wife Bernadette to his side, a grim-faced Chirac paused silently before the casket before addressing guests including Italian magnate Gianni Agnelli, one of the many wealthy

and powerful men Harriman was linked to as wife or companion.

"Two centuries ago, Benjamin Franklin and then Thomas Jefferson represented in Paris a nascent America. In 1993, President Bill Clinton chose an exceptional person to follow in their footsteps," Chirac said in a speech.

"To say that she was an exceptional representative of the United States in France does not do justice to her achievement; she left to our long standing alliance

entailed. There is a price to pay for security."

Mayors of towns and villages in the North urged the government on Friday not to consider a unilateral withdrawal, saying such a debate would hurt morale among residents and soldiers, according to Israel Radio.

Mordechai made it clear on Friday that Israel will not withdraw from south Lebanon unless arrangements are reached that would guarantee the safety and security of northern communities.

"We have no interest in being on Lebanese land. We do have a vital security need [to be there], and as long as we know that from there we are giving security to northern communities, we will be there," said Mordechai.

"When a solution is found that somebody else can guarantee that security, IDF soldiers will be the first to be happy to leave Lebanese territory," he said.

Mordechai spoke to reporters after attending the funeral at Kibbutz Deganya Alef on Friday of Armored Corps officer Lt. Eran-Hai Perez, 21, who was among those killed in the helicopter disaster last Tuesday.

Perez was laid to rest alongside the grave of his uncle, airman Capt. Eran Cohen, after whom he was named, who died during the Yom Kippur War. His remains were discovered 18 months ago and his body brought back to Israel for burial at the kibbutz.

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**GENE**  
Continued from Page 1

the molecule to be activated.

Their research, partly funded by grants from the Science Ministry, Inter-Lab of Ness Ziona and its parent company Ares Trading SA of Switzerland, may also increase understanding of the development of AIDS.

Scientists suspect HIV somehow "recognizes" NF-kB, regarding it as a signal to become more active.

This may explain why HIV carriers often develop full-blown AIDS after coming down with another illness: this could activate NF-kB and set off the immune response to fight that illness, but simultaneously it goads the HIV virus to awaken.

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**RELEASED**  
Continued from Page 1

The Oslo 2 agreement specified that "all female detainees and prisoners shall be released in the first stage of release. The first stage of release will take place on the signing of this agreement [September 28, 1995]."

The violation of this agreement helped weaken the fabric of trust between the previous government and the PA.

More prisoners were to have been released in the second stage, which was to have taken place a year ago, prior to the Palestinian Council elections on January 20, 1996. There is also to be a third stage of releases during the permanent-status negotiations.

Arafat deputy Mahmud Abbas told reporters after a PA cabinet meeting Thursday night that, at the Erez summit meeting today, Arafat will also raise the issue of eight negotiating subcommittees to deal with issues remaining from the interim talks.

Yesterday, on the first day of Id al-Fitr, Arafat visited the home of Sheikh Yassin and of Ahmed Siftawi, a veteran Fatah activist shot in 1994 before Arafat arrived in Gaza.

Last night the Tel Aviv-based Women Against Political Prisoners group praised what it called the cabinet's "lardy" decision to release the women prisoners.

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TELL ME WHY

Time really flies when you're getting old

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

As I get older, I feel time flies faster. Is there any biological reason for this or is it psychological? Ronny Omer, Nitzit Eyal, a psychologist at Tel Aviv University's Herzog Institute on Aging, who recently wrote a book on this subject called Ha'zman Ha'amiti, answers:

This is a fascinating and very complicated subject with a number of hypotheses, but no one has proven them scientifically. Some suggest that subjective perception of the passage of time is relative to how long one has lived. For a four-year-old, a year is a quarter of his life, thus time goes slowly for youngsters. For an 80-year-old, a year is a small fraction of his life, thus time goes quickly for him.

Others argue this perception is connected to metabolic processes and biological cycles. After middle age, the body works more slowly; the stimulation of the central nervous system, for example, and other biological functions, proceed at a slower pace, and it takes longer to do things, so time passes faster. Another possibility is that from middle age, people simply see that their time on earth is limited; it's like watching the sand in an hourglass

with more on the bottom than the top. You feel pressured by the lack of time left, so time passes quickly.

In addition, new experiences during childhood and adolescence make time seem to stop. These expand perceived time. But in middle age, *deja vu* can set in, because you've seen things before, making time go faster. (Thomas Mann writes about this in one of his works.)

The matter is complicated by how busy one is. An older person who has enjoyable hobbies and spends time with people he likes will find that time passes more quickly. But if he is disabled and in a geriatric facility, waiting for a doctor for an hour or getting through a meal can make time go very slowly. Often when an elderly person tells me time flies, there's a good chance that he's optimistic and finds life fulfilling.

What is the evolutionary benefit of fingerprints on man? Do any other mammals, besides apes, have them? Yona, Or Yehuda, Prof. Yoel Rak, a physical anthropologist at Tel Aviv University, replies:

I don't know of any other animals that have fingerprints besides apes. But having them doesn't always mean that they offer an evolutionary benefit. In recent years, we scientists

have discovered more and more that they are by-products of evolutionary processes that, in effect, just go along for the ride. This is called "pleiotropy."

It is like medical syndromes; if natural selection works to determine eye color, the shape of the ears may go along with a specific eye color, but the ear shape has no evolutionary benefit. It's clear that all fingerprint patterns are genetically derived, but that doesn't necessarily mean they contribute to the survival of the species.

Nevertheless, there is no proven answer. Some suggest that having fingerprints could indeed have offered evolutionary benefits in apes by giving a surer grip while climbing. Others say fingerprints indicate more sensitivity to touch due to the concentration of sensory cells below the skin. But we don't really know the answer.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax to (02) 5389527, or send it by e-mail to justie@post.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.

Computers for all

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

What is the point in giving a NIS 6,000 computer to a child with an unemployed parent who has too little income to spend on decent housing, clothes, schoolbooks and perhaps even nutritious food?

A new project called "A Computer for Every Child" is aimed at making 100,000 elementary-school youngsters in the two lowest deciles of the socio-economic scale computer literate in order to upgrade their learning skills, improve their self-esteem and give them a chance to compete in the job market in the decades ahead.

Since the highest level of charity, according to Jewish tradition, is helping someone to support himself, this project is aimed at freeing disadvantaged children from the cycle of poverty instead of merely giving them charity.

The project was initiated by the Operation for Social Development, a voluntary effort headed by Yuli Ofer and other local businesspeople including Gabi Sabag of ORS manpower company, Hanan Achsaf of Motorola-Israel, Yehoshua Maor of IBM-Israel and Arye Scop of Microsoft-Israel.

A month before the elections last May, then-premier Shimon Peres warmly endorsed the idea and afterward Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu personally gave it his blessing. The government recently decided to establish a public council, headed by Prime Minister's Office director-general Avigdor Lieberman, to run it with the group of businesspeople. JDC-Israel, which in 1995 launched a smaller pilot project that distributed 800 PCs among disadvantaged children around the country, will provide organizational backing.

Arnoo Mantver, JDC-Israel's director-general, notes that the lessons it learned during the past two-and-a-half years will benefit the much more ambitious project being launched. An important facet of the "A Computer for Every Child" campaign will be to require every child to undergo a 60-hour computer course in his community along with a parent or an older sibling, to ensure that the PCs don't just sit around collecting dust (or aren't sold to buy lottery tickets). Families won't get the modern-equipped Pentium computer unless



A project has been launched to ensure kids from poor families can buy computers. (Richard Nowitz)

they complete the course and pay a nominal fee of NIS 150. The recipients will be selected with help from local social workers and include haredim, Russian and Ethiopian immigrants and Arabs as well as other poor Israelis.

Mantver adds that the public tender for computer hardware and software will be the "biggest-ever single contract" of this kind in the country.

The \$50 million, five-year project is being financed equally by the government (which will allocate money from ministry budgets and bequests), local authorities, and private and company donations from Israel and abroad.

Having computer skills increasingly determines whether a young person will be employable, Mantver says. In the two lower socio-economic deciles, only seven percent of homes have a PC, while they are found in the large majority of well-off homes. Distributing 30,000 computers to disadvantaged children, says the IDC-Israel chief, will help shrink this gap. All the computers will be hooked up to the Internet, giving the recipients the great advantage of being able to communicate with others throughout the country and the world, and will boost their English-language abilities. The package will also come with a variety of software, utilities as well as entertainment and games.

Rami Bakstanski, a sixth grader at Hameginim School in Ashdod, received his computer last year as part of JDC-Israel's pilot project.

The boy, who immigrated from Moldova six years ago with his mother and older sister (now a medical student at Ben-Gurion University), spends five or six hours a day working on his computer after learning how to use it at his local community center.

Rami, whose mother was a bookkeeper in their native country and who is now looking for a job, says that he and his friends "hardly talk about TV anymore. The project gave computers to most of the children in class, so now we talk about programs and disk drives." As the PCs distributed last year were not souped-up Pentiums and lacked modems, Rami dreams of upgrading his PC, but he has already managed to add memory and a CD-ROM drive. His class works for three hours a week on computers at school, but at home he's able to do other things and to practice.

He dreams of going into the computer field when he grows up. Anyone thinking of contributing to the "A Computer for Every Child" project should know how much it gives children self confidence and teaches them skills, he says.

Maor of IBM-Israel, which will donate goods and services to the project, says that he isn't bothered by the idea of recipients spending time playing computer games instead of educational programs all the time.

"Computer games are important too. Foreign studies show that abilities gained while playing computer games are vital to the development of technological and cognitive skills and are an important

learning tool." Asked whether it would have been better to invest the \$50 million in a long school day or books instead, Scop of Microsoft-Israel says: "Of course I'd prefer giving all the children a comfortable home and a long school day in a classroom with only 20 children, and I could add other vital needs as well. But the fact that all this can't be accomplished in Israel in 1997 doesn't mean we should give up. Developing computer skills is vital to the development of children in the 21st century no less than other things."

The prime minister made an appearance at a recent fund-raising event attended by businesspeople, who donated some NIS 4 million worth of computers.

In addition, Scop's company has pledged \$4 million worth of software to the project, including the Windows 95 operating system, word-processing, educational programs and electronic spreadsheets. The Safra Brothers donated 150 computers and Bezeq, 50. Hod Ami computer publishing will provide NIS 100,000 worth of material, including a special program that teaches youngsters how to use Windows 95, while Supersol will organize fund-raising campaigns among customers in all its branches.

For further information, contact Ami Bergman at JDC-Israel and the Operation for Social Development, Givai Ram, Jerusalem, telephone (02) 655-7111.

DISK-COVERY

Clicking through 'my first encyclopedia'

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Ha'Encyclopedia Harishona Shefi (My First Encyclopedia), a CD-ROM for children aged five to 12, produced by Knowledge Adventure in the US, translated into Hebrew and marketed by Mirage Multimedia, NIS 149.

Rating: four-and-a-half stars out of five

How does a company produce an encyclopedia for children as young as five who don't yet read? It's impossible unless one goes about it the way Knowledge Adventure does - very successfully - using a CD-ROM chock full of sound, video film, photos and drawings. There is only a bit of text for the older children, who will enjoy the program as much as their pre-school siblings.

Obviously, it isn't a real encyclopedia as it doesn't cover the gamut of subjects presented in a printed volume, but it does deal with many: the solar system, food, the human body, music and art, transportation, climate, geography, animals, the community and occupations.

These topics are cleverly displayed as pictures on a tree, which takes up several computer screens from top to bottom; young users reach the topic merely by rolling the mouse up and down and clicking on what they want. Some of the topics, such as an owl, the moon or a grasshopper, are represented by small icons and offer a short explanation using pictures and a video clip. But the major topics are dealt with in detail, and all of them include a drawing program, puzzles and a question-and-answer section. Just click on the picture of a child and you'll get the answer. It's a shame users aren't given the chance to choose the answer themselves; they could have been given a choice of pictures without text.

The program teaches about the planets in the solar system and how lunar and solar eclipses are produced; offers an attractive photo album of animals and details about their habits; and presents jobs, from jet pilot (interestingly, the one shown is a woman) to athlete.

The arts section tells about Bach and Tchaikovsky, Van Gogh and Picasso, and shows the made David statue by "Michael Angelo" (sic) [this minor detail, and the appearance of a teenage girl in a sleeveless shirt, may annoy haredim parents, who otherwise would like this disk]. A charming feature is a music map,



Ha'Encyclopedia Harishona Shefi doesn't cover the gamut of subjects presented in a printed volume, but it does deal with many.

click any of two dozen symbols and hear a country's style of music, accompanied by a photograph; although Israel is not on the continental maps in the geography section, it is represented on the musical map with a *hora*. The food section offers a variety of recipes to make with adults and conveniently allows users to print them out.

I have only two minor complaints: the dubbed-in Hebrew is delivered at a rapid clip, and may be too fast for younger users. In addition, clicking some items causes the program to return to Windows for a few seconds, however, it quickly recovers. But all in all, children will enjoy this compocopia of learning material.

Sipurei Savva (Grandmother's Tales), a Hebrew translation of the CD-ROM by Living Books (Random House/Broderbund Company), distributed here by Mirage Multimedia, for pre-school children, NIS 159.

Rating: one star out of five

The only good thing about this CD-ROM is the credits: the musical animation it gives when showing who produced this, highly disappointing program for children is imaginative. The problem is the program itself.

The disk is based on a simple children's story, *Just Grandma and Me*, by Mercer Meyer (I hope that's the correct translation; the credits, incredibly, don't list the English spellings or the title of the book). The disk consists entirely of a mea-

ger 12 frames. A rodent-like animal with the Hebrew voice of a girl listed as Gal Cohen tells how she went to the beach with her grandmother. They fly kites, play in the sand, go into the water for a dip, get tired and then go home. That's it, with no sophistication, educational message or games as a bonus.

One may listen to the story being recited, but the Hebrew is given without vowels, so the child can't use it to learn reading.

When the text is being read, the mouse is frozen so you're forced to listen to the short text without the option of escaping.

The arrows allowing the user to proceed to the next page or go back to the previous one are in the same direction as the original English-language version; this is very confusing to the young Hebrew-speaking child, as to go ahead, one must click the arrow facing right instead of left. In the absence of games, the user may click on various objects on the screen to get fish to jump out of a pond and the like, but this is really very pedestrian.

It's surprising that such major US companies would produce such an unattractive product and that Mirage, which markets the above-reviewed encyclopedia disk and offers a wide variety of other impressive software, made such a poor choice. Considering what you get for NIS 159, perhaps one should translate the title of this CD-ROM as *bubba meises*.

NEW WORLDS

By POST SCIENCE REPORTER

Tel Aviv appears as splashes of red, yellow, blue and green in the first-ever study of the city's thermal characteristics made possible by satellite imaging and an airborne thermal-sensing system. The red end of the spectrum signals higher temperatures while the blue shows cooler areas.

The study, carried out by Tel Aviv University researchers, was sponsored by the Ministry of National Infrastructures (formerly the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure). Thermal satellite and airborne imagery are relatively new tools for monitoring the urban environment, according to an article in the winter issue of *Israel Energy News*.

The thermal images showed distinct and measurable differences among parts of Tel Aviv; the variations showed up even on single avenues.

There were temperature differences of five or six degrees Celsius between some parts of Jaffa and in northern Tel Aviv, for example. The images show that high-rise buildings along the Mediterranean shore block off winds and cause streets to the east to be warmer.

The researchers are able to analyze the data, to calculate average temperatures and the effects of trees, heavy traffic and buildings, as well as get an overview of the entire urban area at different times of the day and night.

ATTENSHUN! TURN ON YOUR PC The Israel Defense Forces will soon open an Internet site to interact

with Israeli residents and provide information; a separate Intranet (called Zabalnet) - accessible only to authorized people inside the IDF - will soon be ready as well and ensure top security, according to the *Anashim U'Mahshevim* computer weekly.

Reservists will be able to access the IDF Internet site and get information; they will even be able to ask for a deferment of duty when necessary. The site will also offer a large amount of information to teenagers before enlistment, on courses, draft procedures and the various corps in the IDF. IBM-Israel has been chosen by tender to establish the site and maintain it for at least a year.

The internal network, Zabalnet, will encompass all the IDF's professional literature (such as manuals for operating tanks or maintaining planes). It will also integrate small video cameras and microphones to allow officers to consult with each other through secure video-conferences, saving them the time of driving to urgent meetings.

PENT-UP PENTIUM If you've recently bought a personal computer with a conventional Pentium processor, it's already out of date. The latest thing in PCs is Intel's MMX processor, which was developed by engineers at Intel's Haifa facility and is making a big splash around the world.

It's expensive, but it isn't required by everybody; it greatly improves the performance of multimedia and virtual-reality applications, and electronic photo editing. It's also speedy: it carries out 400 trillion calculations per second. It

will operate any program installed in your computer 10 to 20 percent faster than a conventional Pentium processor. Its availability is pushing down prices of the conventional Pentium.

The Green Shop chain of computer equipment has won exclusive rights to market the MMX processor, with PC prices that contain it ranging from NIS 7,300 to NIS 11,600, depending on what else comes with it.

Meanwhile, Super-Shivuk Technologies, which represents Packard Bell-NEC here, said that all of its multimedia computers will come with the MMX processor.

BATTERY-RUN TOILET PAPER? Israelis, used to public toilets lacking toilet paper, will be glad to hear about a new Japanese inven-

tion: the portable, battery-operated "bottom washer," which can be slipped into a purse or hip pocket. Reuter reported that the device, about the size of a paperback book, is being put on sale by Matsushita Battery Industrial Company. The bidet-like gadget weighs just 275 grams and holds 200 milliliters of water, which is squirted out through a collapsible nozzle. The units, which have adjustable water pressure, cost 11,000 yen (\$91) each.

"Apart from uses stemming from hygienic reasons, the washer is useful on camping trips and when changing baby's nappies," a company spokeswoman said. "More and more Japanese are installing toilets with automatic washing functions in their homes and many want to use them in public lavatories as well," the spokeswoman said.

HEALTH SCAN

Safe open-heart surgery for the elderly

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

Grandpa, and even great-grandma, can undergo open-heart surgery with relative safety due to recent improvements in medical techniques, according to cardiothoracic surgeons at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus and Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine.

Writing in the latest issue of the *Israel Journal of Medical Sciences*, marking Beilinson's 60th anniversary, Drs. Gideon Sahar, Ehud Ra'anan, Alex Sagie, Niv Ad and Bernardo Vidne report on a study dealing with octogenarian patients. Forty-two patients, constituting nearly 2 percent of those treated in the

department during a period of three years, underwent bypass surgery or aortic valve replacement or both. In two out of three cases, the treatment was urgent rather than elective. Many of the patients had other diseases, including renal failure, chronic obstructive lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and peripheral vascular disease.

Their cases were followed up for nearly three years after surgery, examining their daily functioning, use of medications and physical health. The rate of those dying in surgery was 2.4 percent, and an additional 4.7 percent died within three months of the operation. A quarter of the patients suffered at least one major complication and some had more than one, but the

conditions of most patients improved significantly. They were hospitalized after surgery for an average of 11 days. The most serious complication was a stroke, but this risk can be reduced by performing a trans-esophageal echo study before or during surgery.

While bypass surgery in those over 80 is still considered very risky, recent studies - this one included - show it can be performed with relative safety; valve replacement is somewhat more complicated. Mortality of 2 to 12 percent is not much greater than in young patients with the same risk factors, the surgeons write. Surgical intervention "clearly improved survival" compared with continuation of medications and other therapies.

BLACK & BLUE - AND RED

Plaster casts for broken limbs are not only heavy, but also itchy and hot inside and have to be kept out of the water. But various clinics and hospitals are now offering waterproof casts made of light plastic and covered with red or blue gauze; if the patient has a broken leg, it can be walked on half an hour after being put on instead of after four days. They can even wear a regular shoe instead of having a metal heel attached below it (whose presence often causes poor posture and back pains).

The casts weigh in at a ninth of the weight of the conventional plaster-of-Paris version, thus patients can get around easily without suffering atrophy of their muscles.

Advertisement for the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, IBA. It lists the Music Director David Shalton, the 59th season (1996-97), and a concert program featuring works by Handel, Haydn, and Beethoven. The concert is scheduled for Thursday 13.2.97 at 8 pm at The Henry Crown Hall, Jerusalem Theatre. Tickets are available from the Orchestra Box Office.



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## NATO's day is done

In the continuing and often heated debates over the proposed enlargement of NATO eastwards, none of the principals involved on the Western side seem to have asked themselves a simple question - why? In fact, as well as ask themselves why expand, they should go on to ask themselves "why NATO?"

The French, who usually can be relied upon for a maverick opinion, are more consumed on this issue by unenlightened self-interest in trying to grab a more prestigious command position in the organization. President Jacques Chirac, backed by the Germans, has merely come up with a suggestion for a summit of the main powers in April - in Paris, needless to say - to devise a new relationship between NATO and Russia.

As in many international disputes, form in this case appears to be at least as important as substance and all the Western powers are showing extraordinary insensitivity to the views of Russian leaders and the Russian people. The substance is that yes, of course the European Union and its neighbors on the continent need a defense system. The form is - why does it have to be this anachronism called NATO?

NATO is as much a Cold War beast as the Warsaw Pact was. The two military blocs were specifically set up to defend the two political blocs, the free democracies and the Communist front. The fact that Communism "lost" the struggle does not necessarily mean that the West "won" it, despite being put in such terms by former leaders like Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. Yet NATO represents to the Russians a continuing Western attempt to gloat over its victory. This has gone beyond a celebration of the end of Communism, which most Russians could share quite happily, to a perception that Russia as a nation was somehow "defeated."

This is not a good impression to be giving, however mistaken it may be. Where national pride is concerned, perceptions are often more potent than dry facts or explanations. Recent news reports on the NATO debate constantly use phrases like "disarray" in the West's attempts to persuade Russia that it really is OK for Western forces to expand eastwards. When they say it is not OK, the Russians have a point that is not being taken seriously.

Russians for 50 years were schooled and reared on the theory that NATO was their enemy. As long as the name and the organization remains in existence, the perception will linger that it is anti-Russian and must be regarded with suspicion. It is high time to sweep away the last vestiges of Cold War habits which everyone knows can all too easily be revived. There already have been arguments over the continued operations of the old intelligence agencies, the CIA and the KGB. The arguments over "NATO expansionism" will not go away unless a radical effort is made to bury the issue for good and all.

NATO does not need a summit to persuade the Russians to accept its unilateral plans. It does need a summit to consider scrapping the entire outfit and consulting with the Russians and east Europeans on a defense organization to replace it - with a new name and a new charter that replaces the historical anti-Communist (and by association anti-Russian) model.

Russia also suspects that the eagerness of their former Warsaw Pact allies to join NATO is more an act of revenge on Russia than an imperative defense need. Norway and Denmark are pushing strongly for the Baltic states - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - to be admitted, a move that would bring NATO into an area Moscow still resents the most for the way it left the Soviet Union and for the perceived ill treatment of ethnic Russians in some of the republics.

Many of NATO's old provisions need rethinking in any case. The "automatic response" provision, that an attack on any one NATO country is an attack on all of its members was a necessary red line provision in an era of nuclear confrontation. Such a provision is untenable in the new world disorder. Most NATO politicians will have forgotten the old defense organization known as CENTO which grouped Turkey, Pakistan, India and the Shah's Iran under a British nuclear umbrella operated out of Cyprus.

It collapsed in 1974 amid Pakistani recriminations that CENTO's "automatic trigger" was conveniently ignored when it was attacked by India. Just as embarrassing was CENTO member Britain's failure to act over Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Of course the provision about an attack on one member being an attack on all was never meant to cover members attacking one another - as in NATO it was transparently anti-Soviet and nothing else.

NATO has transferred its anti-Soviet stance to an anti-Russian one in the eyes of most patriotic Russians and all the reassurances and denials in the world will not change that fact. The most sensible step now is to send NATO the same way as CENTO. Even in the Cold War 1970s, the world did not become any more or less unstable after the demise of the expensive and futile Central Treaty Organization.

At present there seems little sign of any radical sensible thinking in NATO - in fact the whole debate over its expansion is little more than a mess. Even France agrees with its allies that Moscow - strongly opposed to the whole idea - should not have a veto on the expansion. All the members say enlargement must not create new divisions in Europe and that a charter enshrining a close cooperative relationship with Russia should be worked out. It does not seem such a great step to ask Russia what sort of European defense pact it might consider joining, or at least what type of one it would not mind its former satellites joining. The United States and Europe will not be overrun by Russian borders if the 16-nation NATO were to bid itself farewell with accolades for a job well done but one that no longer needs doing.



## Jewish jigsaws

Many people are now wondering how US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright did not know she was born of a Jewish family. Some may think she did know, and was covering it up.

But to me she seemed genuinely astonished when she told the *Washington Post* last week that she had been unaware that three of her grandparents had been Jewish, and that they had died in Nazi concentration camps.

My sympathies are with her now as she tries to piece together her background and come to grips with a dimension of her life that has lain buried. I will be interested to see how she copes with this new and perhaps startling knowledge.

My first experience of this kind of thing occurred in Washington DC, 20 years ago, with a (divorced) woman and her daughter, coffee-and-cake friends, who lived just a few boulevards down the street. The woman had four other grown children, and all lived as nonpracticing Christians.

I once mentioned to my wife that the mother seemed "just a little Jewish." This impression came from the woman's speech (she had grown up in New York), her sense of humor (irony and sarcasm) and from her sister, who had retired to Florida and visited once in a while.

But this kind of probe into another's background was not a wise thing to pursue, because in America what one is or believes is a very private business. So there the matter remained.

Ten years ago, when the woman died, her sister got up and announced to the children: "Enough of this cover-up."

"Your mother and father were Jewish. After World War II, when your father was looking for a law job in Washington, they both thought that life would be easier for them - and for you - if you were thought to be Christians."

And so it was. None of the children had engaged in even the vague kind of speculation I had.

The revelation thus came as a complete shock to them; but it did not (as far as I was able to tell) change their lives in any essential way. They are all still nonpracticing Christians.

What Albright's parents did is understandable.

Many Jews, in Nazi Germany

and in Soviet Russia, hid their antecedents as best they could. Often it was simply a matter of survival, akin to the situation of the Marranos in Spain - except that this century's Jews-in-hiding usually did not retain, or want to retain, any vestige of the Jewish ritual that had been a part of their former lives.

**DOV BURT LEVY**

**So Madeleine Albright has discovered her roots. Will she tend them?**

Israel today may have something like a million people who might have, but didn't, bury their Jewishness. While I am full of gratitude to them, I cannot find it in my heart to deplore those who chose otherwise.

THE US is a country which has always looked to the future, rather than back at the past. Its vast size and large immigrant and mobile population make the American brand of anonymity more profound, perhaps, than that of any other nation in the world.

Fewer than half of America's people live within commuting distance of the place where they grew up. And this has had a direct and enormous impact not only on family "togetherness," but also on the sense of, and attitude to, family continuity and history.

Many Americans remember John Kennedy's vow to put men in space; but few remember, or care, that Kennedy had a father who was, to put it mildly, less than savory. An antisemite and an early supporter of Hitler, Kennedy senior made his money bootlegging booze in the US during Prohibition.

At the more savory end of the spectrum, few Americans know anything about the aristocratic backgrounds of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, though many still remember what they did for the working class, and how they related to it.

Some historians explain it like

this: America, they say, was "born free." What they mean is that it never had to fight a serious revolution that transferred power from one class to another.

Compared with what happened in France, Russia - or Israel's struggle to be born - the Boston Tea Party was a small affair. It just isn't remembered in the same way as other national births.

Other scholars stress the "frontier" theory of American history - that just as the US in its formative years had land expansion enough for everyone, it now offers economic expansion to those seeking opportunity and riches.

Almost everyone in America knows Bill Gates is America's richest man, worth some \$20 billion. Who cares about his religion or nationality? The relevant and interesting thing about him is Windows 97, not who or what his grandparents were.

In this sort of context it becomes understandable that Madeleine Albright had to climb right up to being secretary of state before the press began to probe her background seriously.

Now she will have to deal with this very intense and personal issue; and I suspect she won't have the time, clarity of mind, or desire to do so until her tenure as secretary of state is over.

Then - dare I predict? - unlike my neighbor's children, who decided that their Jewishness was an interesting but largely irrelevant fact, Albright will do things that will surprise the public.

I'm not talking pie in the sky here. Albright is a serious thinker. She knows that today's America (and today's world) is incredibly different for Jews from the country her parents confronted 50 years ago.

Whatever choice she makes will come out of her deep understanding of historical and human processes, and she will keep my respect.

But I'm looking forward, 15 years from now, to welcoming her on Israel soil as a fellow citizen, and to maybe riding an Egged bus with her on a senior citizens' outing from Tel Aviv to Metulla.

If and when she finally does make aliyah - remember, you read it here first.

The writer is a former political science professor.

## Golden age?

HELEN MOTRO

In her living room in the early '50s, my mother hosted the first New York meeting of the women's Red Magen David for Israel. Last week, 45 years later, she collapsed on the street in Tel Aviv. Within minutes she was being loaded onto a stretcher and wheeled into a Magen David Adom ambulance.

The young medic, delicate and gentle, sped her away toward the hospital.

"I'm not turning on the siren because I think she is stable and I don't want to shock her," he told me. "But let me know right away if you notice any change." Only after making certain she was attended to did he prepare to leave the emergency room. I asked his name.

"Yitzik," he replied.

"Yitzik what?"

"Just Yitzik," he called over his shoulder.

After my mother was released, she looked back at her hospital stay philosophically.

"Well, I finally got a ride with Red Magen David," she said. Thanks to Yitzik, hers was a good one.

Yitzik, unfortunately, are the exception. The elderly often meet impatience - even callousness - from the generation to whom they have yielded the stage.

My mother came home to find her 1997 television tax bill waiting on her doorstep. In bold type across the top it read, "The Knesset has decided to repeal the 50 percent reduction [for senior citizens]." This year pensioners pay NIS 447 instead of NIS 223.

With the same blow, the Knesset also killed their 30 percent reduction in municipality taxes, as well as reduced fees on a myriad of cultural events. "The only thing they left us is the bus fare," I heard one man say bitterly.

LIKE THE sons in Pearl Buck's *The Good Earth* who plot to sell

**In this country, 'gray power' is still in diapers**

their father's land even as, with seeming solicitude, they lead the old man across his beloved field, our society throws the aged a pittance, while going on with the business that really matters.

The health funds print glossy brochures advertising a new "personal approach." But medical staff may brush off a hard-of-hearing pensioner who overstays his allocated 10-minute slot.

An old woman arriving at the National Insurance Institute office might wait hours to be seen, then, when her turn comes, be snapped at.

Theaters get PR mileage out of the discounts they offer to the elderly. In practice, reduced rates often apply only to the earliest afternoon show, or are excluded altogether for first-run movies. It is as if the pensioner is being told that he too has dropped to the rank of a second-run film.

Sometimes an apparent benefit carries a sting.

The Co-Op supermarket chain grants the elderly a 7 percent discount on every purchase. But Co-Op recently raised the minimum amount entitling free home delivery to NIS 250.

To the aged, often living alone, that sum means a major purchase. Yet even one bag of groceries may be too heavy to carry home.

The result? It isn't unusual for an older person to wait until his or her cupboard is almost bare before going to the market - to buy just enough to avoid the delivery charge.

The humane view of ourselves we like to promote includes platitudes like honoring the "Golden Age." But while we are busy patting ourselves on the back, the people we refer to are at the mercy of chance.

In the US the American Association of Retired Persons is an active lobby, and Germany has its Gray Panthers.

But in Israel, gray power is still in diapers. Here senior citizens lack clout, both as individuals and as a group.

A Jewish parable tells of a boy who, seeing his grandfather being given a wooden dish to eat from while the rest of the family dines off porcelain plates, promptly starts preparing a wooden bowl for his own father.

We might do well to reflect on this story, envisioning ourselves one day grasping a senior discount voucher in one trembling hand, while trying to catch the attention of an indifferent civil servant with the other.

Let's stop disregarding the elderly, lest one day we find ourselves being disregarded.

The writer is an attorney.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### JOURNALISTIC ETHICS FOR A BETTER FUTURE IBA'S LACK OF HONESTY

Sir, - I don't usually agree with Susan Hattis Rolf's views on politics and government, so I thought I would like to pass on a well-deserved pat on the back for her column, "Way out of line," (January 27).

The bias and animosity in Ayala Hasson's so-called "revelations" were evident. Ms. Rolf correctly points to the equally biased way in which many members of the media are blatantly enjoying the "scandal" with little interest in a balanced attempt to evaluate the evidence presented (or lacking) - or even a careful, occasional use of the term "alleged" in restating the situation which Ms. Hasson and Channel 1 presented to the nation.

I would add that a society will agree to protect the rights of members of a profession if, and only to the extent that, the members of that profession show a desire and an ability to control their own behavior. Publishers and editors and fellow reporters carry a heavy responsibility - to evaluate the factuality of what a reporter presents to the public, to speak with and double check the veracity of the reporter's sources and to prevent unbalanced accounts of an ambitious reporter. Only in this way can the media earn the trust of the public and the privilege of "protecting sources from public exposure."

I believe that Ms. Hasson has violated this trust and her superiors and the management of Channel 1 have neglected their duty. Perhaps it is time for Ms. Rolf and those of her colleagues who agree with her to establish a board of inquiry to investigate the extent to which this event has been a breach of correct and professional behavior.

BARBARA BERAN

Sir, - I read Rabbi Ron Kronish's article of February 2, "The other peace process," with great interest and agree totally with the contents.

I would however like to draw your attention to the fact that, following the tragic murder of Nahshon Wachsman, a sense of unity and identification that had never been experienced before encompassed not only the Israeli population, but extended to Diaspora Jewry as well. Expressions of support streamed in from all corners of the globe from Moslems, Christians and Jews alike.

In the wake of these reactions, the Nahshon Wachsman Center for Tolerance and Understanding was established last December, under the auspices of Beil Morasha of Jerusalem - Center for Advanced Jewish Studies. This center creates study frameworks, conferences and a meeting forum between Christians, Jews and Moslems. Last December, the first such inter-religious meeting took place between Christians, Jews and Moslems on the subject of Hanukka, during which 80 participants of various religious beliefs concentrated on the different sources relating to Hanukka. The meeting was deemed a great success by all those taking part.

Further meetings, dialogues and conferences are scheduled to take place with the aim of promoting peace, a better understanding and tolerance between the peoples who inhabit this country, and a love of humanity in the spirit of our Jewish heritage, which is the legacy of Nahshon Wachsman.

PROFESSOR BENJAMIN ISH-SHALOM  
 Rector, Beil Morasha

Sir, - As a listener to Kol Yisrael's English news service on shortwave for the last 15 years, I have - in the past - been much impressed with their objectivity and, at times, even held them up to the BBC as a shining example of how to report fairly on controversial issues.

After 1992, however, I had to revise my opinion and by now, the leftist slant is still such that I have to agree 100 percent with N. David Gross's assessment of those "...who exhibit their lack of honesty in their choice of interviewees and by the way they grill those on the right, while indulging with leading questions those of their own leftist persuasion" ("Our liberal elite," January 26). And, I cannot like to add, if they cannot avoid interviewing government representatives, they make sure that their statements are followed by someone from the extreme left, allowing him the last word.

In the interest of the government's credibility and Israel's image abroad, the IBA ought to be persuaded to discontinue this kind of practice sooner rather than later.

R. WILLERS  
 Wembley Park, Middx.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING**

Sir, - All this debate about whether one should give the *yardim* vote is nonsense. If it is important for an Israeli to vote, he will make an effort. We put off our trip to the US to vote; it cost us an extra \$200, as we missed the date for cheaper fares. To us, it was worth it.

EVELYN DAR-EL

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Bachir Laifaoui leaves no doubt about his commitment to his cause: he's on a hunger strike - and he's sewn his lips shut. Laifaoui is protesting not being chosen for a vacant job at the town hall of Manosque, France. (Reuters)

## POSTSCRIPT

FOR DECADES, skeptics scoffed at claims that a stained US flag in a small, rural museum was used as a pillow for the bleeding head of Abraham Lincoln the night he was assassinated.

Now an amateur scholar says yes, indeed, it is the flag from Lincoln's box at Ford's Theater. Other scholars agree.

The flag is at the tiny Pike County Historical Society museum, in Milford, Pennsylvania, which draws only about 1,500 visitors a year.

"You expect to find something like this in the Smithsonian or the National Archives," said Joseph Garrera, a part-time Lincoln researcher and insurance company owner. "That's why no one believed it was in this small-town museum."

Garrera didn't believe claims about the flag at first. But after 400 hours of research, he produced a 5-cm-thick report concluding the flag was authentic.

He sent the report to top Lincoln scholars, who sent letters back agreeing with him.

One of them, Wayne Temple, called it "a touching symbol. Here his head was lying on a folded flag of the union that he gave his life for."

The flag was given to the museum in 1954 by V. Paul Struthers, whose mother was a cast member of *Our American Cousin*, the play Lincoln was watching when he was shot.

Leash la protect d  
 a new gene of ergonom keyboard



HEAD 'N' TAILS

# Leash laws protect dogs

By DYORA BEN SHAUL

Recently we have had a lot of enquiries and complaints about Israel's leash law for dogs. A dog is required to be either confined or kept on a leash at all times.

Not long ago the Veterinary Service set aside specific areas where dogs may be allowed to exercise off leash at specified times.

This is the only exception. As a matter of fact, the law is more restrictive than this.

A dog is supposed to be muzzled when on leash but the Veterinary Service does not insist on this except when a dog is aggressive or using public transportation.

To many who come from places where there is no such law this seems oppressive.

However, it is impossible to compare Israel, where rabies cases appear every year, with countries where this is not a problem.

The law is a part of the Rabies Prevention Law and is not meant to be barbaric. The Veterinary Service does not "hate dogs" as some readers claim, but it is charged with protecting the general public and their livestock from rabies.

Because this is the law, the Veterinary Service has the right to impound any animal found off leash and in some cases is entitled to destroy it.

It is also legally allowed to spread poison bait for strays and a

dog off lead is at great risk, so a careful owner will see to it that his or her dog is on leash when outside the yard.

This does not mean that I am an apologist for the Veterinary Service. I do believe that there are better approaches to rabies prevention than spreading poison, for instance.

Certainly, closer attention should be paid to seeing that every dog is regularly vaccinated as required by law.

Today, in the computer age, it should be no problem to locate every dog's record and check whether the vaccination is current.

It should also be obligatory upon the owner to notify the service if a dog listed in their records is dead or has changed ownership.

Even a not too developed country such as Malawi manages to keep track of the vaccination of dogs, so we should certainly be able to manage it.

It is all too easy to accuse those in authority of not being sensitive to the needs of pet owners, but we have to take all the factors into account and realize that the Veterinary Authority has a thankless task.

By and large, the leash laws are for a very good purpose and a careful and thoughtful owner will obey them, just as he will be meticulous about keeping his dog vaccinated every year. Those who do not do this are gambling on the fate of their pet.



Nachum Shifren: A rabbi by land, surfer by sea.

# Soul surfing

By AMY KLEIN

What do a five-meter wave and a long-bearded rabbi have in common? In Rabbi Nachum Shifren's case, they are as intertwined as the world of physicality and spirituality itself.

"The ocean is so beautiful; it has this dynamic, an unknown element of mystery," Shifren says, his mind already at the beach. "It's like being Jewish. Underneath the waves, there's fun and challenge."

Shifren is a surfer. And like all true surfers, he loves the "spray," taking on the wild, unbridled power of a crashing wave. But Shifren doesn't live only for surfing. Well, not anymore, that is.

"After more than 30 years of surfing on four continents, I've had my share of waves. I will always remain a surfer and, God willing, so will my son. But I am also a Jew. I have something to say."

It's hard to equate this rather religious-looking man - whose scraggly, pepper beard matches his pinstripe pants - with the dude in the wetsuit surfing on the cerulean California waters; but as the boundless energy and words burst forth from him like waves or a tense coil, oddly enough, it begins to make sense: Surfing and God go hand in hand.

That is Shifren's message.

In two-hour lessons on the Herzliya beach, Shifren acts as a combination lifeguard/surfing teacher/rabbi. The only thing he guarantees the college-age guys is that they will be standing on the board.

But in teaching them how to surf, he teaches them about life.

This is also done in his worldwide Jewish surfers' newsletter, *Surf & Soul*, which is distributed on his Internet site ([www.surf-soul.virtual.co.il](http://www.surf-soul.virtual.co.il)), offering updates of the weekly Torah reading, and, of course, descriptions of great surf.

From his comparison of the Jews' crossing the Red Sea (the first "surf punks") to teaching God's greatness by way of surfing, it's clear that Shifren's religion is of a different nature from the "Thou Shall Not..." we might be used to.

"I'm not into religion. I never liked it," he says, '60s roots peeking through. "I'm not interested in making people ba'al teshuvot [those returning to religion], making sure they have the right siddur [prayer book], how long are my sleeves, how long is my hemline," he says.

"Everything we see and do is how to get close to God; in surfing, when you paddle out on a board, that's part of our creation."

THE STORY of how Rabbi Shifren came to be a surfer is really the story of how the surfer became a rabbi.

"I almost missed my bar mitzva," is how he begins his odyssey of a '60s kid who would have been wholly involved in leading anti-war protests, LSD, and Woodstock if it weren't for surfing.

It captivated him from age 12, and junior and high-school classes were just breaks between surfing, where he'd stop by with sand-caked hair.

His parents, California Reform Jews, were aware of their health-nut, beach-nut son, but, he says, "they saw I wasn't doing deviant behavior, so they were happy I found something that was relatively harmless." Shifren, in retrospect, has stronger thoughts on his surfing: "It saved my life, [without it] I would for sure be dead."

His grandmother's generous graduation stipend allowed

Shifren, who was then completely unaffiliated with anything Jewish (except the ocean, which he now says is everything Jewish), to enroll in the University of Hawaii, where he spent four years tackling the most dangerous, challenging waves in the world.

When his money ran out, he moved back to Los Angeles and became a summer beach lifeguard, earning enough money to support his surf habits throughout the year. He spent the next four years traveling to Mexico and Central America.

During this time, his younger brother had made aliyah, and had fought in the Yom Kippur War. This encouraged Shifren to think about Israel and being Jewish, and after reading up on the subject, at age 27, he decided to pick up and go.

After a stint in ulpan and Hashomer Hazta'ir, Shifren signed up for an IDF combat unit and then became a sports instructor. After the army, he went back to California and decided to finish his degree in Spanish and German.

It was on the college campus, when in search of a hanukkiya, that he ran into the Habad rabbi - also a surfer.

The rabbi invited Shifren to his house every Shabbat. Shifren says that this "opened the door to Judaism" because he saw an aspect of peace in their family. In the impulsive, dedicated way that makes him such a good surfer, Shifren studied Hebrew and began to learn Torah.

He decided to go back to Israel to yeshiva, living by the surfers' manifesto: "When the surf is good, you drop everything and go." He sold his old Volvo, all his belongings (except his surfboards), and went to Kfar Habad, turning his surfing soul into a rabbi.

By the time Shifren went back to California, it was the 1980s, and he was a teacher. In the inner-city schools of L.A., he faced teenagers who were lost, he felt, in a more dangerous way than his generation was.

So he started Surf & Soul - a class for his black and Hispanic students, who didn't even know how to swim, in order to give them something to hold onto. "These guys didn't give a damn about anything, but they wanted to hang out in my club. That was the key of Surf & Soul. I still get letters from them, guys in the Marines, guys with police records."

Shifren met his kindred spirit a few years later, and about a year ago they made aliyah with their three children.

Rivka Shifren founded and edits an arty, religious women's magazine called *Bot Kol*, which aims to do some of the things her husband does: spread the word of Judaism as a life-enhancing force.

In addition to yeshiva, surfing lessons, public-relations appearances (*Good Morning America*, *Donahue*, Israeli Channel 2, Spanish National Television), Shifren hopes to open a "surfing shul" on Dizengoff Street.

On the beach he'll set up a juice bar stacked with books, loan out some boards, and give a few words on surfing and more on Torah.

It's his own way of combining both of his loves. "I don't care if people are surfers or not, I am using that as a tool," he says, to reconnect people with "the source of vitality in life."

# The new generation of ergonomic keyboards

Turn over Microsoft Corp.'s computer keyboard and you'll find a bright-orange exclamation point followed by the word "WARNING," and then: "Continuous use of a keyboard may cause Repetitive Stress Injuries or related injuries."

This admonition that typing could be hazardous to your health is, unexpectedly, on the "Natural" - a wave-shaped keyboard that Microsoft touts as ergonomically designed for greater typing comfort.

It is one of a slew of unconventional keyboard designs intended to reduce strain on hands and wrists - part of the computer industry's answer to the type of complaints highlighted recently when a New York jury awarded a secretary suffering from a wrist injury \$5.3 million in a suit against keyboard maker Digital Equipment Corp.

There are keyboards that come in three parts and keyboards that come in two parts.

There are convex keyboards and concave keyboards, keyboards that tilt toward you, away from you, or toward a peak in the middle.

While standard keyboards sell for \$20 to \$40, the unconventional designs range from about \$90 to nearly \$1,000.

But as the warning label on Microsoft's Natural keyboard illustrates, there's little consensus as to whether the new ergonomic designs alleviate strain-related injuries.

Alan Hedge, a Cornell University ergonomics professor who has studied alternative keyboards, said that in many instances "what they're doing is displacing the point at which you get some postural deviation [strain]. They're not really eliminating that postural deviation."

"I don't see any major medical benefits," said Emil Pascarelli, a professor of clinical medicine at Columbia University and the author of the book *Repetitive Strain Injury: A Computer User's Guide*.

But Hedge and Pascarelli both insist that devices which adjust the position of the keyboard in relation to the overall body posture can help.

For its part, Microsoft doesn't claim to offer any medical advantage.

"It wouldn't be responsible of Microsoft or anyone else to say, 'Get an ergonomic keyboard and that's going to solve all your problems,'" according to Beth Featherstone, group marketing manager for Microsoft's hardware division.

That may help explain why alternative keyboards remain something of a novelty in the workplace. For most of 1996, they accounted for 18 percent of keyboard sales, according to PC Data, a firm that tracks equipment purchases.

"I think there's a concern on jumping on the bandwagon of some alternative that is supposed to be better before there's actual

research to indicate that it is better," said Sherry Saunders, spokeswoman for the Center for Office Technology, which represents large manufacturers and corporate buyers of computer equipment.

"Most companies don't want to get into suddenly providing alternative keyboards when ... you may find down the road that they actually cause more people problems."

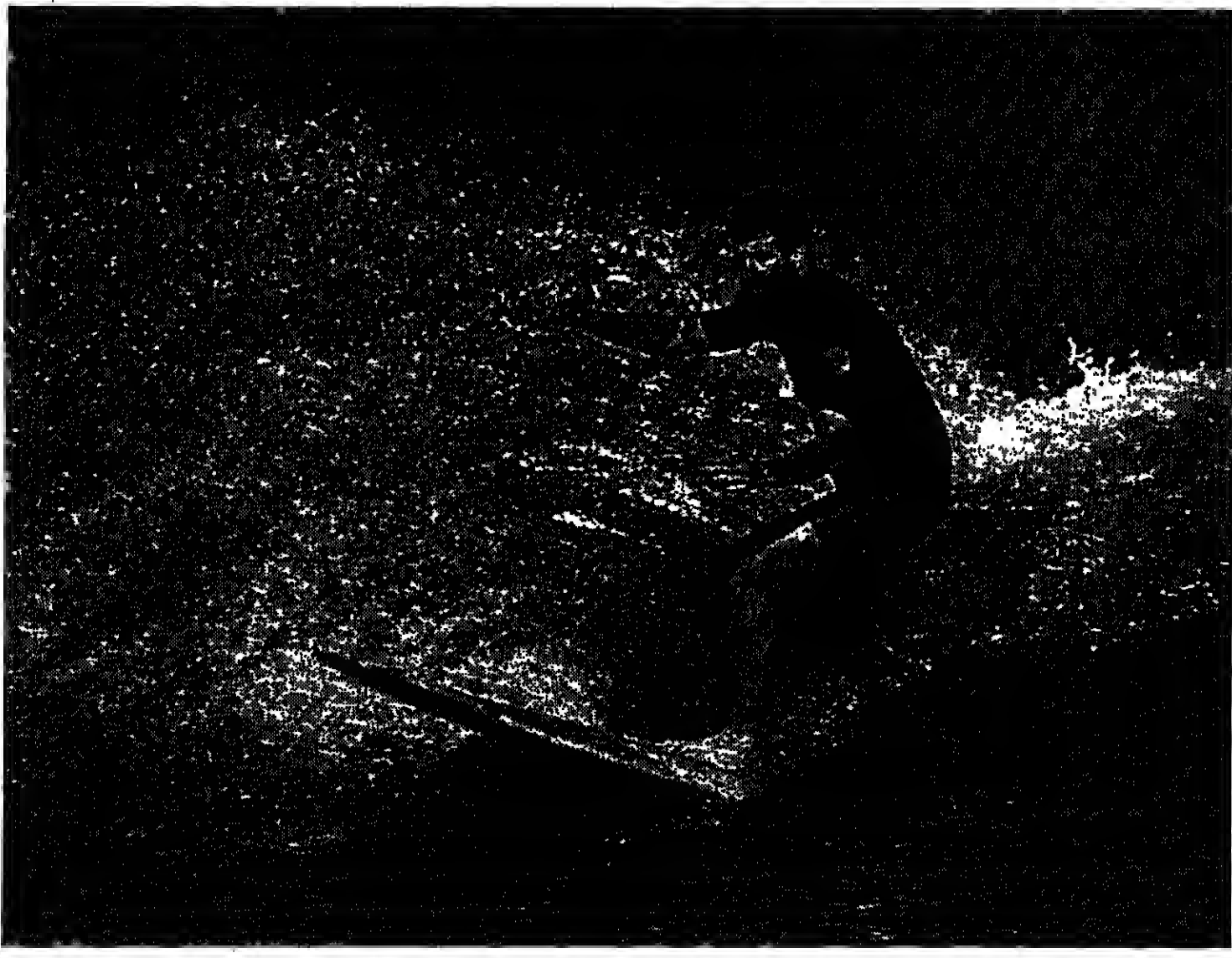
Some employers, such as Bell Atlantic Corp., consider equipping workers with ergonomic keyboards on a case-by-case basis. "If their doctor recommended that they needed a change, we would evaluate the situation," though it wouldn't necessarily require a doctor's intervention, said Bell Atlantic spokeswoman Joan Rasmussen.

Bell Atlantic focuses its ergonomic efforts on the way in which employees use their keyboard rather than the type of keyboard, said Stephen Taylor, an ergonomic specialist at the company.

Jon Simkowitz of Keyboard Alternatives, a Santa Rosa, California, company that sells ergonomic products, sees another source of corporate skepticism.

He claims that "some employers are afraid of them because they're afraid it's going to give another added cost to their budget."

(The Washington Post)



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Forty-eight years, our readers' pennies have brought heaven on earth to deprived kids throughout the country. From the early days when we collected toys at Hanukka time to the present when **The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund** is an all-year ongoing way of helping children living in institutions and foster homes. We bring help to these needy kids with extra health care, shoes, toys, educational supplies, sports equipment and all those things that give them the kick-start in life expected by their peers.

There's always a reason for giving to kids - holidays, birthdays, achievements and even for just being a kid.

So help us to help them.

Push your contributions today and as the rain brings out the flowers, help us bring a smile to a child's face.

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Nelson named Mavs' GM

DALLAS (Reuter) - Don Nelson, out of basketball since he was fired as head coach of the New York Knicks last March, was named general manager of the Dallas Mavericks Friday. He replaces Keith Grant, who resigned on October 17. In the interim, minority owner Frank Zaccarelli acted as general manager. "I never dreamed a month ago I'd be here or back in the league," Nelson told a news conference at Reunion Arena. "I'm really excited. This is quite a challenge, but I'm up to it."

There's nothing more rewarding than to take a team that's down and build it into a contender. I've done it twice and I can do it again. That's the thing I live for. The 56-year-old Nelson was fired as the Knicks' coach last March 8 with a 34-26 record. He previously served dual roles as head coach and vice president of basketball operations of the Milwaukee Bucks. He was head coach and general manager of the Golden State Warriors from 1988 to 1995. Nelson, a former NBA player, is second only to Atlanta Hawks coach Lenny Wilkens in games won as a player and coach, with 2,534.

NBA leaders

Table with columns for REBOUNDING, ASSISTS, STEALS, and various player statistics for the week of Feb 2-8.

Team statistics

Table with columns for OFFENSE, DEFENSE, and team statistics for various NBA teams.

NBA standings

Table showing Eastern Conference, Western Conference, and Pacific Division standings.

Lewis wins WBC title in bizarre fight

LAS VEGAS (Reuter) - The most brutal sport was the saddest on Friday.

Oliver McCall, a tough-chinned former champion who had never been knocked off his feet, broke down and cried in the ring in what seemed to be a nervous breakdown. And some 4,500 fans booed him.



RUNNING FROM A FIGHT - Oliver McCall tries to keep away from Lennox Lewis.

McCall simply stopped fighting Lennox Lewis in his bout for the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title. Referee Mills Lane, after asking McCall between the third and fourth rounds if he wanted to continue fighting, stepped in and waved the fight off 55 seconds into the fifth. Lane ended it after McCall kept walking away from Lewis, often with his back turned to him like a child edging away from a scolding.

McCall, 31, an admitted drug addict who said he always would have to battle drugs, threw only two punches in the fourth round and one in the fifth and seemed only marginally present in the ring the last two rounds at the Las Vegas Hilton.

He refused to go back to his corner after the third round, choosing to pace along one side of the ring. He began to cry like a lost child after the fourth round. In the fourth and fifth rounds, Lewis pursued McCall, who merely put his hands in front of his face a few times and bobbed his head to avoid some punches but offered no resistance to others and "seemed to want to get knocked out," Lane said.

Despite McCall's lack of offense, the 251-pound Lewis, three inches taller and 14 pounds heavier, could not knock McCall down. Ignoring McCall's obvious mental anguish, Lewis said, "I think after I landed those uppercuts and started playing with my jab in his face he just didn't know what to do."

"This was definitely payback," said Lewis, to the cheers of a contingent of British fans delighted with their hero for winning back the title. Lewis was referring to the theme of the fight, "Payback or Payback," a reference to the first time they fought in September, 1994, when McCall won the WBC title after knocking Lewis dizzy in the second round and the referee stopped the bout.

England looks good for Test win

WELLINGTON - New Zealand will have to stay in the crease for two days to save the second cricket Test at the Basin Reserve, needing more than 200 runs make England bat a second time.

At stumps on the third day yesterday, New Zealand was 48 without loss, still requiring 211 to make England bat again.

England has had a chance to win all three of its Tests to date on the tours of Zimbabwe and New Zealand, but it has had to settle for draws each time.

When India batted it struggled to break the shackles of a superbly disciplined bowling and fielding effort from Zimbabwe.

Opener Bryan Young and Blair Pocock were on 32 and 13 respectively at stumps. England began the day at 204-3 and went on to reach 363.

Left-hander Graham Thorpe hit 108, his fourth Test hundred and his second in consecutive innings in this series.

The dramatic improvement in Zimbabwe cricket which began against England two months ago continued with a brilliant three-wicket defeat of India in the day-night match at Centurion Park on Friday.

Rain fell at the start of the supper break and play eventually resumed. Zimbabwe reached 46 for one in the ninth over, but then collapsed, losing five wickets for 32 runs in 10 overs.

He received good support from Nasser Hussain, who made 64, and John Crawley, whose 56 was part of a 118-run stand for the fifth wicket.

Thorpe solidified England's position by sharing a 118-run fifth wicket stand with John Crawley. He hit 119 in the first Test at Auckland last week and admitted yesterday that it had been a particularly significant century.

The heroes for the part-timers were all rounders Craig Evans (43 from 47 balls with three sixes) and Paul Strang (31 not out from 42 balls). They put on 71 for the seventh wicket after Zimbabwe had seemed to be down and virtually out at 78 for six.

But big hitting from Evans and scampering from Strang saw them through to an historic victory. The two sides meet again in the final pool match at Benoni today. Zimbabwe is now favorites to meet South Africa in Wednesday's final due to a superior run rate.

England lost three wickets in the space of 20 balls with the total on 331.

John Crawley: Part of a 118-run wicket stand.

When Evans was caught on the boundary Strang and Heath Streak got the target down to nine runs from the last over, howled by Venkatesh Prasad.

But big hitting from Evans and scampering from Strang saw them through to an historic victory. The two sides meet again in the final pool match at Benoni today.

Fast-medium bowler Simon Doull finished with 5-75, his fourth haul of five or more wickets in a Test innings.

His last wicket yesterday, Darren Gough, was his 50th in his 15th Test.

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Hill leads Pistons past hurting Rockets

AUBURN HILLS (Reuter) - The hurting Houston Rockets head into the All-Star break grateful for a chance to lick their wounds, while the Detroit Pistons head in celebrating their return to elite status in the NBA.

Injuries take shine off today's All-Star Game

CLEVELAND (AP) - In a season marred by missing offense, it's fitting that something is missing at All-Star weekend: All-Stars.

Even without the likes of Bird and Jordan, it was incredible to see these great players in the same room. Will Chamberlain's table was at an end of the Renaissance Hotel ballroom.

Two All-Stars were sidelined by injuries in 1952, 1973, 1977, 1986, 1992, 1993 and 1994. The only year when three players sat out was 1962.

The Pistons posted a 96-87 victory over the Rockets Thursday as Grant Hill scored 16 points and dished out eight assists and Terry Mills added 16 points and nine rebounds.

"If a guy says he's hurt, there's nothing you can do unless you want to give him a checkup yourself," Karl Malone said. "And I'm not a doctor, I'm a player. So I don't worry about it."

Commissioner David Stern chose Delf Schrempf, Kevin Gamett and Chris Gatling as the Western Conference stars. The Eastern Conference replacements are Chris Webber and Joe Dumars.

The other side of it is you get to see some other guys in this game, and that may be every bit as exciting," John Stockton said.

Onis Thorpe chipped in 14 points and 12 boards for Detroit, which has won six of its last seven games.

"They're probably playing golf right now as we speak," said Billy Cunningham, who coached Barkley in Philadelphia.

"Mouming took some ribbing from Ewing, a fellow Georgetown alumnus, as the two sat in a ballroom Friday for an interview session.

"I went into his room and he had his foot in an ice bucket," Ewing said.

ways." McCall has a long history of drug abuse. His latest public episode was last December when he was arrested for throwing an ashtray, a glass and a Christmas tree in a Nashville, Tennessee, hotel.

He said he had attended drug prevention meetings this week and talked daily with his counselor, adding he would be in treatment for the rest of his life.

Maloney insisted Lewis looked good because he tried using the apparatus that he had been working on in training.

Lewis, now 30-1, will likely fight fellow Briton Henry Akimwande next in a mandatory WBC bout.

Maloney, dressed in a new silk suit covered with the bright colors of the Union Jack, castigated McCall's promoter Don King for allowing McCall to fight because "he knew" the terrible shape McCall was in mentally.

People like Don King shouldn't be allowed to be in boxing. He's a disgrace to the human race," Maloney said.

Table with columns for Player Name, Team, and various statistics.

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Large advertisement for 'CLASS' featuring a portrait of a man and promotional text.



Late PT goal cuts Betar's lead

By DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

Soccer followers showed their respects to the servicemen killed earlier this week by observing a minute's silence before all matches played across the country this weekend.

The National League's Round 17 contained a wealth of excitement, headlined by a controversial finish in yesterday's game between Ironi Rishon LeZion and second-placed Hapoel Petah Tikva, in which Hapoel stole a victory goal in the seventh minute of injury time.

The result helped knock two points off Betar Jerusalem's lead at the summit of the table, as later in the day the capital side was held to a 1-1 draw in a pulsating match away to Hapoel Haifa.

Slumbering giant Maccabi Tel Aviv at last awakened crushing third-placed hosts Hapoel Beersheba 4-1 yesterday. This was hardly the preparation the southerners needed for next week's excursion to Jerusalem to play Betar.

In the Second Division, Ironi Ashdod fell to a surprise 2-0 defeat at the hands of Maccabi Kafr Kana, while leaders Hapoel Ashkelon ended 1-0 victors against Maccabi Acre.

The fans were treated to a breathtaking encounter as both sides committed themselves to attack.

Referee Shmuel Steif added on an incredible eight minutes of injury time, and that, to the fury of Rishon, was what Petah Tikva needed to take all the points.

Bearsheba was hampered by the early dismissal of Giovanni Rosso after 14 minutes for fighting with Amir Shehah.

Banin took the penalty and sent Izzik Korfein the wrong way as he sidefooted the ball into goal to give the hosts a fifth-minute lead.

The Betars flung themselves forward in search of a reply, with Shmuel Levi providing most of the creative inspiration on the right wing.

The equalizer came in the 29th minute when Yossi Ahukis stretched out to meet a header from Izzik Zohar. Rafi Cohen managed to get a palm on the ball but could not prevent it from crossing the line.

Just prior to the interval a Zohar free kick beat a six-man Hapoel wall as well as Cohen, but struck the top edge of the crossbar and bounced harmlessly away.

Two yellow cards in the space of two minutes resulted in Betar's Jan Telasnikov receiving his marching orders in the 47th minute. Seconds later, Talker had another great opportunity but vollied wide despite having the time to control and select his spot.

The Jerusalemites continued to attack despite the difference in numbers, and Zohar was left cursing the gods in the 54th minute when another stinging free kick rang against bar.

The non-stop action continued with Talker wasting another opportunity, only to be matched by similar carelessness by Betar's Isvan Pishont in front of Korfein in the other goal.

The final chance fell to Hapoel substitute Avi Paz who suddenly found a path to goal open up in front of him only for it to close before he could release a shot.

Second-placed Petah Tikva had to wait until seven minutes of injury time before it managed to score the lone goal of the match, when substitute Alon Maya managed to slot the ball home.

A workmanlike performance by the challengers to the league leadership failed to produce any sparks of brilliance, although in the dying moments they made a supreme effort to penetrate the Rishon goal.

Rishon was unfortunate to lose Eyal Cohen in the 88th minute, just two minutes after coming on as substitute, and the one-man advantage probably spurred Petah Tikva to one final spurt at the hosts' goal.

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The hosts, who had started with an attacking lineup, were in trouble, but survived mainly due to the poor performance of Maccabi Tel Aviv, which failed to take advantage of some promising situations.

half, when after an hour's play, the floodgates opened. Eli Driks put Maccabi ahead in the 63rd minute when he slotted home after receiving an excellent pass from new Bosnian signing Azhar Kosic.

Beersheba pulled level within two minutes when Oren Sagron hit an excellent shot on the turn to beat Alexander Obarov in the Maccabi goal.

Maccabi put Beersheba out of the match with two more goals, first Haim Hajaj slotted home after a 1-2 move with Kosic in the 71st minute, and two minutes later, Ofer Mizrahi sealed the scoreline when he beat the Beersheba offside trap to slot home past reserve keeper Avi Peretz.

Taiba put on another demoralizing display and cannot have any complaints about the result. Beit She'an's recent signing from Maccabi Tel Aviv Boris Matveyev was outstanding, and opened up the visitor's defense in the 33rd minute for Shimon Dahnan to guide into goal on the rebound.

Midway through the second half Serjan Sulokovic netted Beit She'an's second goal. On the basis of this match it is hard to see how the Taibans can save themselves from dropping straight back into Division Two.

Haifa looked as if it would waltz away from Teddy Stadium with the points in this match as the visitors appeared much the classier side. Reuven Aar put Haifa ahead in the ninth minute from an 18-meter free kick as the hosts struggled to contain the Haifa attacks.

But their fighting spirit and the leadership of veteran midfielder Meshel Dayan proved the winners at the end of the day. First, Dayan set up the equalizer when he passed to Ronnen Schweig who scored with an excellent left-foot volley in the 26th minute.

The Jerusalemites surprised even themselves when they took the lead four minutes from half-time when the injured Assi Tubi headed past Nir Davidovich in the Haifa goal.

Haifa did its best to gain at least a point from a match to which it thought it would take all three, but an onslaught on the Jerusalem goal failed to produce an equalizer despite Moshe Giam hitting the crossbar in the 88th minute, and Hazi Shirazi striking the post a few moments earlier.

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Maccabi Petah Tikva 0 Bnei Yehuda 0

The only goalless draw of the weekend was as poor a match as the scoreline might suggest. The only incident of note was the sending off of Alon Mizrahi in the 68th minute, and Petah Tikva's advantage in numbers went begging.

Ofer Shtrik had two good chances to score for the hosts, but that was all the Petah Tikva supporters had to take home with them from a fruitless 90 minutes.

Hapoel Tel Aviv 1 Hapoel Kafr Sava 2

The Tel Avivians can feel disappointed with the result of this match, after they had made all the running throughout the 90 minutes.

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In the first half they dominated completely, but the scoreline remained goalless. The second half was much the same as the first, but Kfar Sava's Ofer Cohen took advantage of a lapse in the Tel Aviv defense and scored against the run of play in the 51st minute in one of the few attacks which went Kfar Sava's way.

Nissim Avitan redressed the balance in the 78th minute with a header which the Kfar Savans claimed was scored from an off-side position.

Kfar Sava scored the winner four minutes from time, again, against the run of play, when substitute Oscar Francisco Washington, who had returned from injury after a month's layoff sealed the scoreline.

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NEW YORK BOUND - Bill Parcells signed a six-year deal with the New York Jets Friday.

Parcells, Jets agree to six-year deal

NEW YORK (AP) - Bill Parcells has agreed to run the New York Jets for six years in a deal that could net him as much as \$20 million. Now the only question is how soon he gets to take control.

Parcells signed his contract Friday even as commissioner Paul Tagliabue prepared for a meeting next week to sort out what has become the NFL's biggest soap opera - the contractual squabble involving Parcells, the Jets and his former team, the New England Patriots.

But there was nothing under the table about the deal, which starts next February 1 - sooner if the Jets and Patriots work out an agreement - ties Parcells to New York for six years with an option for a seventh.

"I've always been a league guy, and I'll abide by whatever the league says," Parcells said. "If they say that I can't do anything for a while, I'm not going to do anything for a while." At least four

of those six years will be as coach, with the last two as chief operating officer - a title Parcells effectively will have during his coaching tenure.

"It is the likelihood and the great hope of this organization that we're putting in place the succession and sequence of events which is going to take this team sufficiently into the 21st century," Jets president Steve Gutman said.

No terms were disclosed, but Parcells originally was seeking a \$10 million, three-year deal. So doubling the length to six years could net him \$20 million, more than any other NFL coach and up there with \$3 million per year that Pat Riley earns to run the NBA's Miami Heat and John Calipari receives from the New Jersey Nets.

"I have some very good support here, and I know I'm going to be supported by the ownership totally," Parcells said. "A coach couldn't ask for anything else."

NHL SCOREBOARD

Table showing NHL scores for Eastern and Western Conferences. Eastern Conference: Philadelphia 30, NY Rangers 27, New Jersey 25, Washington 21, Tampa Bay 19, NY Islanders 17. Western Conference: Dallas 30, Detroit 24, St. Louis 28, Phoenix 23, Chicago 20, Toronto 20. Pacific Division: Colorado 22, Edmonton 26, Vancouver 25, Anaheim 20, Calgary 20, San Jose 20, Los Angeles 19.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS: Florida 2, New Jersey 2; Calgary 5, Washington 0. THURSDAY'S RESULTS: Hartford 5, Boston 3; Florida 1, Dallas 1; Philadelphia 9, Montreal 5; Vancouver 7, Detroit 4; St. Louis 6, Buffalo 4; Phoenix 3, Chicago 2.

CLASSIFIEDS

Various classified advertisements including: GERMAN COLONY, BEAUTIFUL cottage; BARGAIN KIRYAT SHMUEL; GERMAN COLONY, LARGE, unique 2.3 acre; DWELLINGS Tel Aviv; RENTALS; BEAUTIFUL APARTMENTS / STUDIO-2; RAMAT AVIV SUMMER; SHIKUN DAN, BEAUTIFUL new cottage; DWELLINGS Sharon Area; SALES/RENTALS; HOLIDAY RENTALS; RENTALS; SALES; SERVICES; SALES.

Leader Bolton falls to Reading

LONDON (AP) - Three goals by Trevor Morley gave Reading a 3-2 victory over Bolton yesterday as the Division One leader had its 12-point lead atop the standings cut to nine.

Second place Wolves scored its ninth road victory of the season, winning 2-0 at Huddersfield and has a game in hand on Bolton.

Third place Barnsley, one point further behind, also stayed in contention, with a 1-0 victory over Port Vale.

No Premier League games were scheduled because England is in World Cup action Wednesday against Italy so that the Division One promotion race was the main focus of attention yesterday.

In a dramatic game at Elm Park, Reading lost Bulgarian World Cup goalkeeper Boris Mikhailov, who was injured after saving at the feet of Scott Sellers early in the first half.

With no substitute 'keeper on the bench, Reading's joint player-manager Jimmy Quinn went in goal with the score at 0-0.

Then came a spell of four goals in eight minutes as former West Ham star Morley shot Reading ahead in the 36th, Alan Thompson

leveled, Morley fired home a penalty and Bolton's Scottish international striker John McGinlay made it 2-2 in the 64th.

Morley's winner, a close range shot after Bolton failed to clear a corner, came in the 70th minute.

Wolves were always in control at Huddersfield and Steve Froggan fired them ahead after 37 minutes.

Top scorer Steve Bull netted the second six minutes from the end, taking his tally for the season to 17 with his fifth goal in four games.

John Hendrie netted Barnsley's winner in the game against Port Vale and, of the other leading promotion contenders, Crystal Palace

downed Bradford 3-1 after trailing to a Chris Waddle goal while Sheffield United and Norwich meet today.

Former Blackburn manager Ray Harford had an unhappy start to his spell at West Bromwich Albion, watching his new club tumble 2-1 at home to Swindon. It was Albion's sixth home loss even though the team has won five games away from home.

Georgian midfielder Georgi Kinkladze had another standout game for reviving Manchester City, which downed Southend 3-0.

WHERE TO GO

Various 'Where to Go' advertisements including: JERUSALEM CONDUCTED TOURS; HEBREW UNIVERSITY; TEL AVIV MUSEUM; POLICE; FIRST AID; EMERGENCIES; DWELLINGS; SALES/RENTALS; HOLIDAY RENTALS; RENTALS; SALES; SERVICES; SALES.



WALL STREET REPORT

New York stocks hit record highs

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks rose to record levels Friday, rallying back from an afternoon pullback with the dollar, as interest rates sank in the bond market amid news that wage inflation was almost negligible last month.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 82.74 points to close at 6,855.80, having briefly dipped into negative territory after surrendering an early 95-point gain. The barometer of 30 big U.S. companies is now less than 30 points from its all-time best close of 6,883.90, set Jan. 21.

Broader measures also bounced back from an afternoon stumble with the Standard and Poor's 500 list and the New York Stock Exchange composite index, both dominated by larger companies, marching to new highs. The Nasdaq market also posted strong gains, with bellwether technology shares starting to rebound from a two-day wave of profit-taking. Stocks jumped in the morning as

bonds rallied, dropping the yield on the 30-year Treasury bond — a key determinant of corporate and consumer borrowing costs — as low as 6.66 percent from late Thursday's 6.75 percent.

But bonds began to pull back in the early afternoon — lifting the widely watched long-bond yield to 6.74 percent and spurring some profit-taking in the stock market — as the dollar sank after U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin acknowledged that some Group of Seven countries have raised concerns over the US currency's recent strength.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK. Table with columns for company name, last price, and change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

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MUTUAL FUNDS

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Key Representative Rates. Table with columns: Instrument, Rate, Change.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES. Table with columns: Index Name, Last Price, Change.

NYSE STOCKS. Table with columns: Index Name, Last Price, Change.

OTHER STOCK MARKET INDEXES. Table with columns: Index Name, Last Price, Change.

DOLLAR CROSSEXTES (US). Table with columns: Currency, Last Price, Change.

COMMODITIES. Table with columns: Commodity, Last Price, Change.

LONDON COMMODITIES. Table with columns: Commodity, Last Price, Change.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US). Table with columns: Metal, Last Price, Change.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES. Table with columns: Metal, Last Price, Change.

LONDON METAL FUTURES. Table with columns: Metal, Last Price, Change.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Table with columns: Country, Data.

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5673.

Jerusalem Post will not be held responsible for the consequences of any transaction made on the basis of these data.

Readers who wish to report missing or misquoted data should do so on postcards only, addressed to Jerusalem Post Business Desk, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.

PAC MED INVESTMENTS. Logo and name.

Source: CommStock Trading Ltd. (DATE: 8-FEB-97)

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Arye Lipsky leads the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra in Brahms's First Serenade...

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

It, or "City" in English, is the Gesher Theater's SRO adaptation of Isaac Babel's Odessa Tales...

TELEVISION

On A Second Look tonight on Channel 1 at 8:45, there are two main reports. The first is by Ya'acov Ahimeir...

In the second part, Judy Lotz accompanies Amira Hess, the Israeli journalist who spent three years living in Gaza...

There is another chance to see one of the better made and more original Israeli dramas, Backwards (Hafuch)...

Other than that, they fall in love, fight, meet strange people and live the young urban lifestyle.

With Orna Fitussi, Dani Stag, Eilat Weitzman, Yoav Heit and others who all give very convinc-



Madonna stars in MTV programs throughout the day.

ing performances. Channel 2, at 7:15 p.m. Elana Chipman

One imaginative young member of the Israel Chamber Orchestra may have hit the oar on the head when she recently dubbed it "Em-pty-V."

Today MTV Europe focuses in on the life and times of superstar Madonna. With the rave reviews she has recently been receiving for her performance in Evita...

TV

- CHANNEL 1: 6:30 News flash, 8:31 News in Arabic, 8:45 Good Morning Israel...

- CHANNEL 2: 6:15 Today's Programs, 8:30 Yoel Bear, 8:55 This Morning...

CABLE

- ITV 3 (33): 16:15 Yasin and Bahaya - Egyptian series, 17:00 Weekly Column...

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 4 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs like News flash, Young Evening News, A Second Look.

20:20 Married with Children, 20:50 Roseanne, 21:15 Lois and Clark, 22:00 The Getaway...

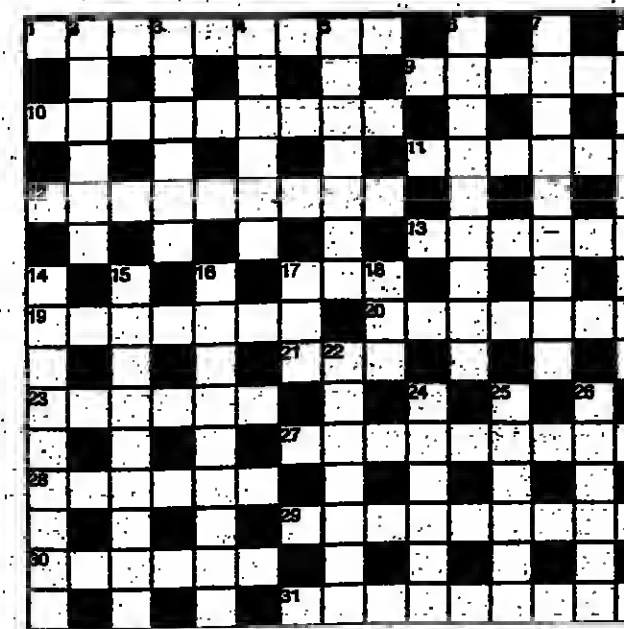
RADIO

- VOICE OF MUSIC: 8:06 Morning Concert, 8:05 Handel, Concerto Grosso no 8 in D...

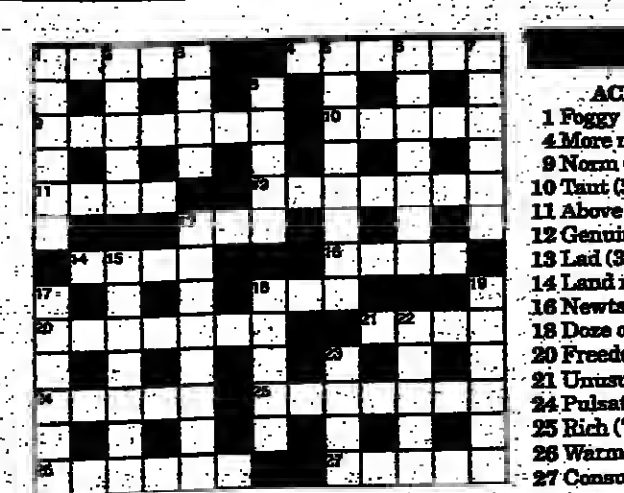


CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Give voice about frivolous disparagement (9), 9 Sort of car seen in the Aegean area (6)...



- SOLUTIONS: JERUSALEM CINEMA THEQUE The Magic Flute 7, Jude 10 + 6 Grand Cocooner...



- QUICK CROSSWORD: ACROSS: 1 Foggy (5), 4 More nigardly (6), 9 Noxm (7)...

MOVIES

Breaking the Waves 8:45, 9:15 + La Cenerentola 9:20, ATZMON Daylight 4:30, 7:15, 9:15...

General Assistance and Where To Go listings now appear on Page 9.



# Dutch revive claim for Nazi-looted gold

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Netherlands, which recovered less than half the 145 tons of gold stolen by the Nazis, has become the first state to revive its claims for looted gold. *The New York Times* reported Friday. The Dutch have formed a commission to determine how the government and citizens can make claims for their losses.

After the war, European states recouped roughly half the gold that had been seized from their central banks by the Reich. That gold came from the pool the Allies recovered and redistributed through the Tripartite Gold Commission.

The gold commission, which had been preparing to close after 50 years, still retains about \$68 million in so-called residual gold. The Dutch claim could bolster the request by Jewish groups that Britain, France, and the US distribute the residual gold as some form of Holocaust compensation.

Meanwhile, an investigation of Swiss assets will be expanding beyond the Swiss banks to New York financial institutions, the New York State banking commissioner said Thursday. In addition to investigating the war-era assets of US-based Swiss banks, the banking commission also will look at five major New York banks believed to have taken deposits from Europeans during the war.

By 1941, most movable property in Switzerland had come to New York, said Banking Commissioner Neil Levin. "New York has a haven for Swiss wealth," he said.

In a related matter, the World Jewish Congress said Thursday that it had canceled plans to boycott Swiss banks. That announcement came the same day that Senator Al D'Amato, head of the Senate Banking Committee, cautioned, "Let's not begin to take punitive steps now."

## COMMENT

### Britain should look at its own policy

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Just as Switzerland emerged intact immediately after World War II, Britain

so far remains unscathed in the current inquiries about the Allies' war-time behavior.

But there is an unwarranted arrogance as Britain takes credit for backing the Swiss into the corner, without pausing to look at itself.

The British Foreign Office's report on Nazi gold, issued last September, "threw into sharp focus the cynical behavior of Switzerland in its war-time dealing with the Nazis." *The Times of London* said last week in its lead editorial. "The smug Swiss bankers were thrown on the defensive; Bern was forced to set up an unprecedented inquiry; and the long-suppressed claims of Jewish victims were finally publicly aired."

All true, but incomplete and self-serving.

Jewish victims also have serious claims against the British, whose Nazi gold inquiries have ignored entirely how London's Palestine policy stymied refugee relief and resettlement after the war.

That same policy helped the Swiss retain German assets in Switzerland, because Britain obstructed efforts to finance aid for displaced persons; it did not want to make available funds that would be used for immigration to Palestine.

The American policy was to finance refugee relief programs. In part, with German assets in Switzerland and with recovered Jewish assets. The funds were then allocated to the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency, which had been designated by international reparations conferences as the operating field agencies to assist displaced Jews.

Britain, however, resisted key segments of the reparations agreements, because they gave "concrete legal standing" to the Jewish Agency and the JDC.

And reparations funds, the Foreign Office said, would enable them "to assist illegal emigration," according to research by Tel Aviv University historian Ron Zweig.

In 1947, the British Foreign Office went so far as to try to block reparations funds to the JDC, saying in an internal memo that it hoped the JDC "will eventually become bankrupt," according to Zweig's research.

"While the displaced persons problem was a pressing and urgent concern for the American administrators of Germany and Austria, it was a side issue for the British government compared to the deteriorating situation in Palestine," Zweig wrote in an essay on Jewish DPs and Anglo-American relations.

In its editorial, *The Times* also said that "Britain and America have been considerably more sensitive in dealing with the gold deposited in their vaults than the Swiss have."

Presumably that is a reference to the willingness of these allies to freeze some \$68 million in the so-called "residual gold" - the left-over gold that originally was looted by the Nazis from the central banks of Europe. The US, Britain and France may make that gold available to Holocaust survivors.

While they may be more sensitive today, in 1945 the Allies targeted only \$25m. from reparations funds for refugee aid, while they amassed more than \$330m. for restitution to European banks.

That \$25m. was to come from German assets held in neutral states, primarily in Switzerland and Sweden - but Britain also tried to torpedo this reparations plan, according to Zweig's research.

Additional refugee relief funds were expected to come from heirless Jewish assets in the banks of neutral states. However, the Allies did not prod the Swiss to identify the heirless assets.

Instead, in 1946 the governments of neutral states were "requested" to make heirless assets available as resettlement funds. Switzerland said it would give "sympathetic consideration" to this request.

But just as the Swiss made no commitment to uncover the heirless assets, neither did the Allies threaten to invoke sanctions if the Swiss failed. The irony is that it is this Swiss-Allied failure that, a half-century later, propelled much of the current contretemps about unclaimed Jewish assets in Swiss institutions.

### WEATHER

City	Temp	Condition
Haita	3-16	
Tiberias	0-10	
Afula	-1-19	
Samsaria	3-11	
Tel Aviv	4-17	
Jerusalem	1-11	
BeerSheva	3-16	
Dead Sea	10-19	
Eilat	7-19	
Golan	1-10	

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

### AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Condition
Amsterdam	01	34	cloudy
Berlin	02	35	cloudy
Buenos Aires	07	57	cloudy
Chicago	07	46	cloudy
Copenhagen	02	35	clear
Dublin	02	39	clear
Frankfurt	01	39	clear
Helsinki	03	27	cloudy
Hong Kong	12	54	cloudy
Jakarta	14	57	cloudy
London	07	34	cloudy
Los Angeles	10	50	cloudy
Madrid	05	37	clear
Moscow	04	29	cloudy
New York	01	34	cloudy
Paris	02	37	clear
Rome	02	35	clear
Stockholm	02	36	cloudy
Sydney	04	39	clear
Tokyo	04	39	clear
Vienna	02	35	clear
Zurich	02	35	cloudy

### Winning cards

In Friday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, the jack of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

## Weizman to visit Britain

By BATSHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, will pay a three-day state visit to the United Kingdom on February 25.

The Weizmans will be the guests of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip and will stay at Buckingham Palace.

Following meetings with members of the royal family, the prime minister, and the leader of the opposition in London, Weizman will go to Cambridge University to visit the famous Cairo geniza based there.

Also, at the Imperial War Museum, Weizman will participate in a cornerstone ceremony for the Holocaust wing and will attend the unveiling of a monument to Raoul Wallenberg. He will also meet with top Royal Air Force brass at RAF Cranwell.

Reuma Weizman, who has a keen interest in rehabilitation of wounded soldiers through horseriding, will visit a British rehabilitation center which has exchanged knowhow on this form of treatment with its Israeli counterparts.

## Man with active hepatitis undergoes liver transplant

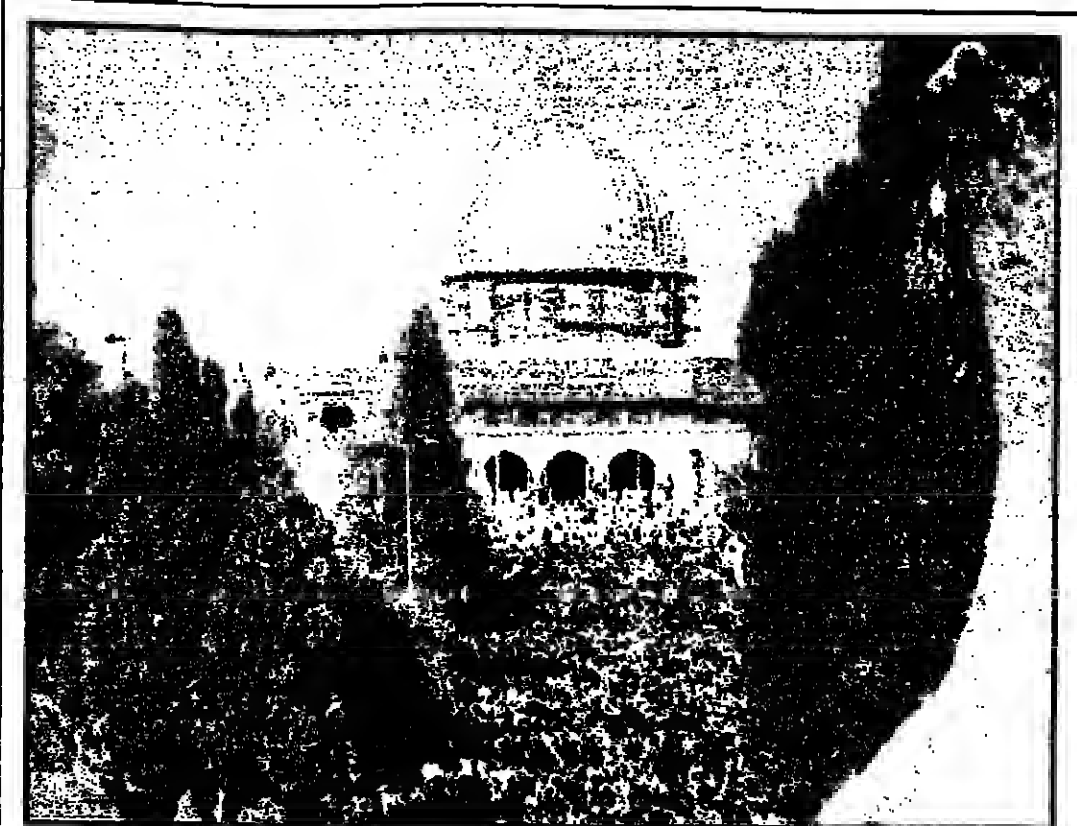
By JUDY SIEGEL

A 43-year-old man in the active phase of hepatitis B underwent a liver transplant at the Rahin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus over the weekend after receiving an experimental drug to overcome the infection.

The man, living in the South, married and the father of one child, was given the drug lamivudine at the Petah Tikva hospital. Ordinarily, patients in the active phase of hepatitis B or C are not allowed to undergo an organ transplant because the infection re-appears in the new liver.

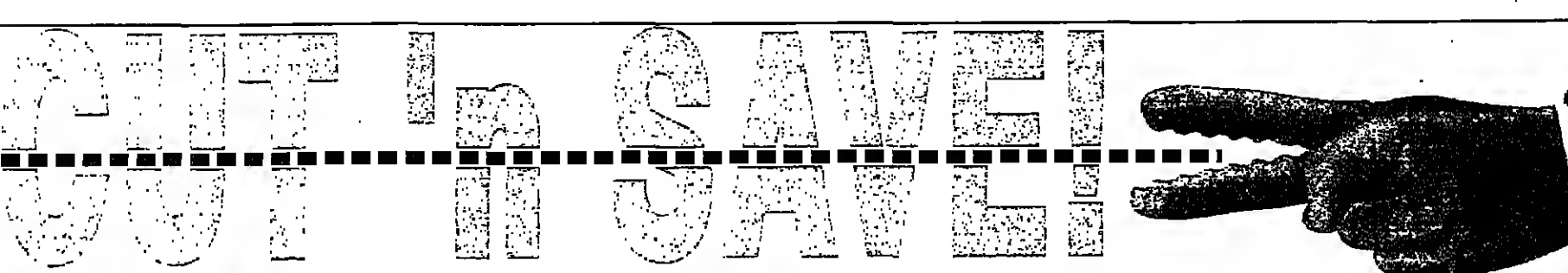
His doctors, including Prof. Ran Tur-Kaspa, treated him for three months in an internal medicine department. Within six weeks, the virus was stopped in its tracks, and a transplant was made possible. A team headed by Prof. Zaki Shapira performed the 12-hour operation.

At the same time, a heart from the same donor was transplanted into the chest of a 47-year-old man from the center of the country who had been hospitalized in Rehovot with a deteriorating condition. He was disconnected from a respirator seven hours after the surgery, led by Prof. Dan Aravot and Dr. Gidi Sahar, and visited by his family.



### Ramadan prayers

Some 225,000 Palestinians pray on the Temple Mount on Friday, the last Friday of Ramadan. No violent incidents were reported. The three-day festival of Id al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan, started yesterday.



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AA 12 Pcs  
Instead of 39.99 NIS  
Pay only 29.99 NIS

**10 NIS**

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**LILY GREEN TOILET PAPER**  
24 Rolls  
Instead of 33.99 NIS  
Pay only 27.99 NIS

**6 NIS**

Coupon Code: 10199

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**SANO BON TRIPLE PACK**  
3x50 gr.  
Instead of 17.95 NIS  
Pay only 11.95 NIS

**6 NIS**

Coupon Code: 10205

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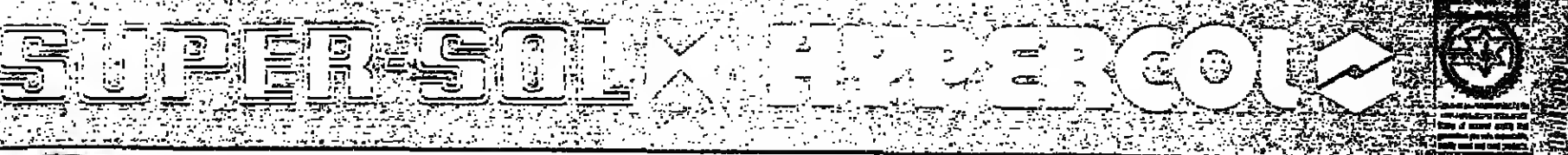
**PINUK SHAMPOO OR CONDITIONER**  
400 ml.  
Instead of 8.29 NIS  
Pay only 6.29 NIS

**2 NIS**

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